

# MOONLIGHT & *Mariposas* IN THE GARDENS!



6-9:30 pm, Friday, October 10  
8545 S. Staples St., Corpus Christi  
**STXBOT.ORG**

## Seventeenth South Texas Botanical Gardens *MOONLIGHT* fundraiser dazzles with nine eateries, signature drinks, butterfly décor, Clarissa Serna Band, comedian Trey Armijo!

Our 17th annual signature fundraiser, **MOONLIGHT & Mariposas IN THE GARDENS**, is a casual, fun-packed event Friday, October 10, in the blooming Botanical Gardens! At 6 pm, valet your car, check in, get your flashlight, grab a botanical craft beer or signature cocktail to sip your way through silent auction, orchids, plumeria, bromeliads, 70 artist-designed metal butterflies, and butterfly release!

Beginning at 7 pm, enjoy nine delicious dining stations with appetizers, entrees and desserts at colorful tables with Guara "Whirling Butterflies" floral arrangements.

Everyone's favorite **Clarissa Serna Band** opens mellow, getting down to dancing vibes after dark, as you enjoy more drinks, dessert and recheck auction faves. Get your **Take-All Raffle** tickets, visit Animal Ambassadors, and wrap up the evening with comedian **Trey Armijo** on stage!

Support your Gardens with a **SPONSORSHIP** or **SINGLE** admissions online at **STXBOT.ORG**, or download/send in with payment, or call 361-852-2100. **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**, no walk-ins (*Since alcohol is served at this after dark event in large outdoor setting, guests must be at least age 18*).

NEWS MAGAZINE ■ SOUTH TEXAS BOTANICAL GARDENS & NATURE CENTER ■ FALL 2025







Kitty Hommer  
Event Chair

**MOONLIGHT COMMITTEE**

- Jodi Alley
- Joe Alley
- Beverly Bacak
- Elvin Brunks
- Charlene Chesshir
- Wallie Coley
- Dominique Cuellar
- Karen Easton
- Cathi Garza
- Genny Hatton
- June Herbst
- Denise Housler
- Patty Nuss
- Holly Osborn
- Stephanie Riske
- Manette Scanio
- Joe Schenk
- Betty Thomas
- Jeff Wise
- Brenda Bishop
- Alan Belcher
- Bruce Benedict
- Adel Casiano
- Cindy Haaker
- Randy Haaker
- Jill Harshbarger
- Grace Lopez
- Linda Raye
- Robert Raye
- James Revell
- Candace Tidmore
- Michael Waid
- Debbie Noble
- PHOTOGRAPHER

**Proud to be  
An Energy Star  
Certified Facility**

**PLUS  
BOTANICAL GARDENS  
STAFF**



# MOONLIGHT in the GARDENS 2025

Presenting Sponsor **CITGO Corpus Christi Refinery**

Supporting Sponsors **Joyce Barnette • Ken & Amanda Kellar**

## \$3000+ SPONSORS

Aransas-Corpus Christi Pilots  
Cindy & Mike Boudloche  
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

## \$1000 SPONSORS

Anonymous  
Carr, Riggs & Ingram  
Charlene Chesshir  
Phyllis Davis  
First Community Bank  
Frost Bank  
Gill Garden Center & Landscape Co.  
Dr. Mary Jane & Bob Hamilton  
Gaylord & Sue Hoyt  
Holly & Buzz Osborn  
ProCare Injury Specialists  
Conni, Jeff & Jay Wise

## \$5000 SPONSORS

The Adlers  
Carmen Rodriguez  
In memory of Eugene H. Bouligny  
Flint Hills Resources  
Sally & James Gill  
Kitty & Dr. Dean Hommer  
Debbie Isaacs  
Port of Corpus Christi

## \$2000 SPONSORS

AEP Texas  
American Bank  
Anonymous  
Graf Plumbing  
Genny & Greg Hatton  
June & Steve Herbst  
State Representative Todd Hunter  
IBC Bank  
Kenedy Memorial Foundation  
Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP  
Barbara Little  
Drs McIntyre & Garza  
Patty Nuss  
Rally Credit Union  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
Texas A&M University-Kingsville  
Lowell & Betty Thomas  
Visit Corpus Christi  
Betty Whitt



## IN-KIND EVENT SPONSORS

American Bank  
B.J.'s Pizza & Brewpub  
Brewster Street Ice House South  
Chops & Eggs Hash House  
Hester's Café  
Hu-Dat  
Jason's Deli  
L&F Distributors  
Mr. Feast Hot Chicken  
Nueces County Sheriff's Dept  
CRB P.O.E.T.S.  
Taza Modern Mexican  
Texas Roadhouse





# HOLLY-Days at the GARDENS



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

**TREES & LIGHTS** ..... around every corner  
**Holiday Cut-Out Photo Ops**  
**Lighted Hay Maze** ..... in Children's Area  
**PHOTOS with SANTA** ..... in Rose Pavilion  
**KIDS CRAFTS**  
**HAYRIDES** ..... tent behind Pavilion  
**Reptile Room Open, Gift Shop Open** ..... in Visitors Center  
**Photos with Animals** ..... donation to Vet Care  
**S'mores & Cocoa \$5** ..... at Fire Pit



**Nov 28/29 • Dec 5/6 • 12/13 • 19/20**





## HOLLY-Days

Crowds are growing every year! The exciting magical celebration of holiday fun, returns with the giant fresh-cut, lighted fir tree, donated by Joyce Barnette; artist Shelia Rogers "Emerald Forest" of trees made of recycled green plastic bottles; along with SANTA, hayrides, light displays and themed trees within exhibits!

Presented by **Valero**, the photo ops, Santa visits and S'mores & Cocoa leaves family and friends with lasting memories of holiday celebrations. General Admission applies, Members Free!

**Can you help add to our "RECYCLED CHRISTMAS" EXHIBIT? Do you have any of these things you aren't using anymore to donate to Holly-Days?**

### Holly-Days Request List

*Don't need these anymore? We do!*

- Artificial outdoor Christmas trees, greenery wreathes & garlands.
- Bicycle rims, any size.
- Wood banister posts.
- Wrapping ribbon or bows.
- LED lights.
- Light Timers, Multi-plugs, extension cords.

**361-852-2100**



# BIRDIEST FESTIVAL IN AMERICA!

announces 2026 Keynote speaker!



Other details announced!

Birding Festival meetings started right after the 2025 Festival ended! Here's what we know so far:

- ▶ Corpus Christi's ninth BIRDIEST FESTIVAL is Wednesday-Sunday, April 22-26.
- ▶ Roseate Spoonbill Members Registration opens November 15, ON-LINE, BIRDIESTFESTIVAL.ORG, at \$60 each. Standard Registration opens December 1, also ON-LINE, at \$40 each.
- ▶ **Keynote Speaker** will be 20-year veteran birding guide **David Sarkozi**, owner of *KoziBirding Birding Tours*. From East Texas, David hosts short and long birding expeditions, for small or large groups, with special interest in Belize and other Caribbean locations—custom tours at reasonable prices, arranged at your pace! David has been a premiere guide for our festivals many years. His Friday evening talk and visuals will be memorable.
- ▶ Two pre-trips are offered—to the Rio Grande Valley, and beautiful Texas Hill Country.
- ▶ One post-trip will follow the festival, also to the RGV, allowing participants to bird in three prime Texas hot-spots at one festival!
- ▶ Veteran Festival Chair Denise Housler returns in captain's chair, with Program Coordinating **Libby Even** back from last year, and Botanical Gardens Executive Director Dr. Michael Womack coordinating logistics.



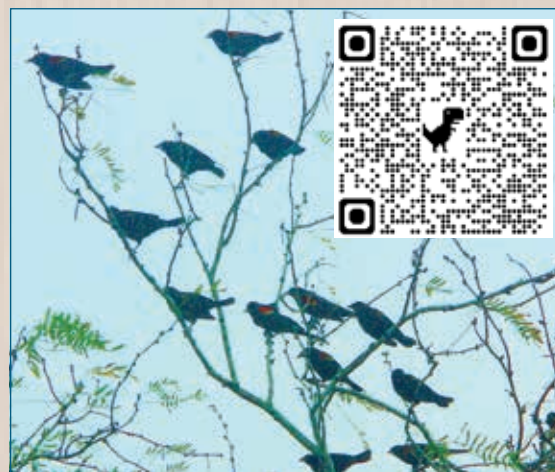
David Sarkozi

## HAUNTED TRAIL is October 18, 19—the scary side of the Nature Trail!



**You can make reservations for 8 to 10 pm, at 20 minute intervals. Get your \$20 tickets on-line, at STXBOT.ORG. Funds raised will help care for animal ambassadors.**

Friday nights, October 17 and 24, ghosts, witches and blackbirds will roam Botanical Gardens habitat waiting for unsuspecting visitors to come along the "Haunted Trail!" Be led down the treelined trail, through ravines, where no one knows what might jump out to brush your face or leg! Find out what happens on the trail by night. But no worries. Gardens staff—the ones who care for snakes & tarantulas—will guide you! You'll walk slowly down the trail, hayride back, rewarded by light refreshments in the Reptile Room, while your heart rate slows!



## Fifth year for Kids' Hay Maze with Ocean Drive Garden Club will be finale!



Ocean Drive Garden Club is busy making "B00-tanical Gardens B00 Buddies" for the fifth and final Hay Maze. These fun and scary characters designed for ages 3-8 will be orange, purple, green and black!

Opening Saturday, October 18, decorated for Halloween and Dia de los Muertos, it challenges youngsters' sense of direction, even though only one bale high so parents don't lose track of children—but also making photos easy!

Included in general admission, Hay Maze will change to a holiday theme for Holly Days, which begins November 28. Thank you, Ocean Drive Garden Club for five seasons of fun!

(Read why Hay Maze is ending on page 7!)



# Additions, improvements starting with S. Oso Parkway entrance, new Master Plan, security fencing, Oso Loop Trail surfacing, and now “Exploration Nature Playscape” progressing under Strategic Plan Committee.

Our newest attraction being designed, is “**Exploration Nature Playscape**,” a major **expansion to the Children’s Play Area** made possible by generosity of the **Dobson Family** who suggested it! The new Play Area will fit within the “Family Garden” space in new Master Plan. Joyce Barnette’s popular Treehouse will move a bit north closer to the tree line. However, there won’t be room for seasonal Hay Maze (see p. 6). Construction! should begin this fall.

The 11-person **Strategic Planning Committee** meeting monthly has crafted a 19-page, two to four-year Strategic Plan for Board approval, to guide staff, budget and physical growth of the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center. Members are Chair Callie Walker, Amos Byington, Bob Furgason, Sarah Garza, Gloria Hicks, Kitty Hommer, Patty Nuss, Bob Paulison, Joe Schenk plus staff advisors Michael Womack and MaryJane Crull.

It also approves and oversees current and future physical projects assuring planned, controlled growth, such as newly-widened and surfaced Oso Loop Trail with ADA-approved connection to the Wetland Boardwalk, also getting repairs and new signage. After S. Oso Parkway opened, site security became an issue. Plans to fund \$75,000 in aluminum fencing, entrance gates, and new signage were completed. Cameras were added. The old wood “ranch” fencing within the new perimeter is being removed. The new safer S. Oso Parkway entrance should be fully signed by this year’s Moonlight, October 10, with current entrance closing except for emergency traffic.

The committee also developed “**Garden Etiquette**” signage now on site, which includes **prohibiting firearms and other lethal weapons inside the Gardens**.



*Oso Loop Trail connects to Wetland Boardwalk.*

## Monarch Waystation will be dedicated November 1, by local Native Plant Society of Texas!

Monarch butterflies are a shrinking endangered population. Thanks to our Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) local chapter, we will have a “WayStation” for them to stop and refresh during migration.

Filled with native butterfly nectar & larval plants, it will have plenty of native milkweed, essential for monarch survival because it is the exclusive food source for monarch caterpillars and only plants on which they lay their eggs. The caterpillars consume leaves containing

toxic cardiac glycosides giving monarchs a defense against predators. Adult monarchs also need milkweed’s nectar for energy during long migratory journeys.

At 9:30 am, attend the Saturday class “Rejuvenating Landscapes & Pollinators with Native Plants (see Calendar, p. 9). In a 2:30 pm class, learn to create your own WayStation! **Dedication follows.** Botanical Gardens members are invited.

## MARIPOSA PALOOZA ends November 2, with meaningful culture, education!

Have you seen Mariposa Palooza, amazed by more than 70 large metal butterflies artistically created by local artists?

There’s more to learn before it closes November 2, the *Dia de los Muertos* holiday. Funded in part by a \$14,000 grant from City of Corpus Christi Arts & Cultural Commission, MARIPOSA PALOOZA offered artists a great opportunity. But the event also will demonstrate why *Mariposas* have fascinated people for centuries being a symbol of renewal and new life in many cultures.

The exhibit ties to pollinator gardens, *une ofrendo* (an altar) built during *Dia de los Muertos*; and a butterfly release in the screened native Butterfly House to connect natural science of butterflies to Mexican culture. Educational signage on butterfly and monarch migration, life cycle, and our local *Dia de los Muertos* festival will encourage visitors to return to Corpus Christi for the street festival!





- ✓ Free General Admission (12 months)
- ✓ American Horticultural Society **RECIPROCAL ADMISSIONS PROGRAM**  
(FREE admission to 360 Gardens in US) ▪ listing at [www.ahsgardening.org/rap](http://www.ahsgardening.org/rap)
- ✓ 10% Discount at: **Turner's Gardenland**  
(with valid STBGNC Member Card & ID) (excludes labor, sale items)  
**Feathered Friends & Co.** (excludes birds)
- ✓ **FREE Better Homes & Gardens online subscription**
- ✓ 10% Discount at **Nature's Boutique** (STBGNC Gift Shop) year-round
- ✓ 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](http://WWW.STXBOT.ORG)**

☐ Renewal or Former Member ☐ New Member

**Membership Category MARK SELECTION**

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 40
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple *	\$ 60
<input type="checkbox"/> Family *	\$ 90
<input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent **	\$ 90
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (Family or Grandparent + 2 guests)	\$ 125
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (Family or Grandparent + 4 guests)	\$ 250
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron (Family or Grandparent + 6 guests)	\$ 500
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor (Family or Grandparent + 10 guests)	\$ 1000

\* (Couple, Family: Must be Same Household)

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

**Age 60+ / Active Military may take 10% off the membership level of their choice**

**PHOTOGRAPHER MEMBERSHIP, for you & clients ▪ \$150/year**

**Member Information PLEASE PRINT**

NAMES (S)

STREET ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE (S)

E-MAIL

AMT \$ CASH CK #

☐ MC ☐ VISA ☐ DISCOVER ☐ AMX

ACCT #

NAME ON ACCT

EXPIRATION 3 DIGIT SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE

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

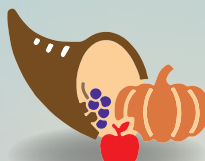
## Nueces Master Gardeners present EARTH-KIND" Walk & Talks"

**2 PM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5**



**"Growing Pollinator Plants and Providing a Bee Friendly Environment,"** with local Native Plant Society president Ernie Schertz, and Justin with local beekeepers group.

**2 PM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2**



**"Holiday Recipes for Cooking with Herbs;" plus "Holiday Decor and Centerpieces from the Garden."**

### ! DOOR PRIZES !

These Events are FREE with admission to  
**SOUTH TEXAS BOTANICAL GARDENS & NATURE CENTER**  
8545 South Staples St • Corpus Christi TX • 361-852-2100



## DROUGHT STATUS STAGE 3



**EVERY  
DROP  
COUNTS  
CONSERVE  
WATER**



CITY OF  
CORPUS  
CHRISTI

**CCW**

**LEARN MORE AT**  
[stage3.cctexas.com](http://stage3.cctexas.com)



## ALL 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.)

### 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 10: 'MOONLIGHT & Mariposas in the GARDENS'

Delicious restaurant dining and beverage stations, including signature drinks, 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 and raffle, animal ambassadors and convenient valet service for a vibrant moonlit evening. **PRESENTED BY CITGO.**

### Oct 17, 24: HAUNTED TRAIL! (see article p. 6, tickets online)

### 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 18: HAY BALE MAZE FOR KIDS OPENS (see p. 6)

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 your landscape choices impact local plant and pollinator populations.

### Nov 1: MONARCH WAYSTATION CLASS & DEDICATION.

### Nov 2: MARIPOSA PALOOZA ENDS! (see articles, p. 7)

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 and how to rebloom them.

### Dec 6: WORKSHOP to CREATE & DECORATE FRESH WREATHS

Learn to create your own fresh wreath using fir branches with STBGNC Landscape Specialist Whitney Lance. Discover tricks to economically decorate your wreath, to welcome holiday guests to your home! Materials included (\$12 members; \$17 others).

## 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. **PRESENTED BY VALERO.**



### WINTER LECTURES, 9:30 am, Wednesdays

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

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>JAN 21</b> | <b>Getting Started with Bonsai</b><br>David Whittaker, Corpus Christi Bonsai Club                          |
| <b>JAN 28</b> | <b>Beginning Birding in the Coastal Bend</b><br>Libby Even, <i>Birdiest Festival in America</i>            |
| <b>FEB 4</b>  | <b>Winter Care for Succulents &amp; Cacti</b><br>Norma Hernandez, Kathy Fernandez,<br>Master Gardeners     |
| <b>FEB 11</b> | <b>Planning for Spring Veggies</b><br>Susan Gonzales, Nueces Master Gardener                               |
| <b>FEB 18</b> | <b>Orchid Care &amp; Blooming</b><br>Jorge Garcia, Orchid Conservatory Curator                             |
| <b>FEB 25</b> | <b>Waking Up Your Plumeria</b><br>Renee Brown, Plumeria Society of South Texas<br>& Nueces Master Gardener |

### Feb 7: DIY RAINWATER HARVESTING

Nueces Master Gardener Tom Andrews talks about home rainwater harvesting systems to reduce reliance on tap water for landscape.

### Feb. 14: JUMP INTO SPRING!

Nueces Master Gardener Renee Brown gives insights into scheduling spring garden chores including pruning and fertilizing so your yard is ready for warmer weather.

### Feb. 21: COMPOSTING FOR SOIL HEALTH

Master Composter and Nueces Master Gardener Donna Gonzales shows you how to start and maintain a home compost center to create amazing soil amendments for your garden.

### Feb 28: LANDSCAPING WITH LESS WATER:

STBG Executive Director and Horticulturist Dr. Michael Womack helps you understand practical principles of Xeriscape to make your landscape waterwise.

### April 22-26: BIRDIEST FESTIVAL IN AMERICA

The "birdiest" and probably the "funnest" birding festival in the country, in its ninth year, promises in-depth van-style field trips to private ranches and other Texas Coastal Bend hot-spots, with evening entertainment options and Keynote Speaker veteran birding guide David Sarkozi, BBQ dinner and more. Choose from two Pre-Trips, to RGV or Texas Hill Country; and a Post-Trip to RGV, too.

Become a **ROSEATE SPOONBILL MEMBER, \$60**, to register early beginning November 15. Regular registration, \$40, begins December 1. All at [WWW.BIRDIESTFESTIVAL.ORG](http://WWW.BIRDIESTFESTIVAL.ORG) Presented by **Flint Hills Resources.**



## YOUTH FIELD TRIPS 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. SELF-DIRECTED with 1 Directed Station:

**NEW!** PRE-K through GRADE 5 \$10 / student  
GRADES 6 through 12 \$11 / student  
*Choose Gardens & Nature Center areas for students'*

### 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 and Mini-Microscopes to observe once-live butterflies. Museum quality exhibit of 100 plus butterflies from around the world with Moth and Butterfly Characteristics Q/A guided interaction.

## FIELD TRIP SCIENCE LESSONS

### WATER WONDERS for PRE-K & KINDER:

Students use mini models of plants, animals and people to create a community with a 16 feet long River/real water model. Students may also help make it rain, flood and 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 and 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, rolle 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](mailto: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, gives 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



## ECO-AMBASSADOR VOLUNTEERS

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

Request a Registration Form — [brendae@stxbot.org](mailto: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 and continue learning. (A parent/guardian must be with youth volunteer during their individual volunteer days/times.)

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

**Email [Brendae@stxbot.org](mailto:Brendae@stxbot.org) for more information.**

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



## ESTATE OF PHILANTHROPIST EUGENE H. BOULIGNY SURPRISES BOTANICAL GARDENS WITH A WELCOME \$25,000 MATCHING GRANT!



In typical Gene Bouligny style, nearing October 10 “*MOONLIGHT in the GARDENS*,” a letter arrived from his estate challenging us to raise \$25,000 by December 31, to receive a \$25,000 match, closing out 2025!

Ironically, we’re roughly \$25,000 away from our \$200,000 signature fundraiser goal. So new Moonlight sponsorships coming in after September 16 will qualify for the match, as will other donations, new memberships or new project money!

Companies or individuals wanting to join “*Moonlight & Mariposa in the Gardens*” fun described on pages 1-3, will not only help us meet our fundraiser goal, but also the Bouligny Match—doubling your donation value!

*Thanks goes to Mr. Bouligny’s wife, Carmen, who also bought a sponsorship to the fundraiser in his memory! Over time, Mr. Bouligny contributed more than \$375,000 to the Botanical Gardens in matches, and was honored at MOONLIGHT 2017!*

### GRANTS & DONATIONS

*MOONLIGHT in the GARDENS, (page 3)*

Marian Alaback  
Brenda Ballard  
Ruth Camp  
Adel Casiano  
Corpus Christi Arts & Cultural Commission  
H-E-B  
Kenedy Memorial Foundation  
Michele Manher  
Ocean Drive Garden Club  
Sandra Raney

### MEMORIALS

Margaret Garrett  
Denise Moore  
Amy Streit

### HONORARIUMS

Michael Womack  
Beeville Garden Club  
Kleberg County Master Gardeners

### PHOTOGRAPHY Members

Kathy Garcia Photography  
Jake Villarreal & Carlos Medina  
Photography  
Rachel Thompson Photography

### CLUB/SOCIETY Members

Audubon Outdoor Club of  
Corpus Christi  
Coastal Bend Audubon Society  
Driftwood Garden Club  
Esperanza Garden Club  
Native Plant Society of Texas—  
South Texas Chapter  
Nueces Master Gardeners  
Plumeria Society of South Texas  
Texas Master Naturalists—  
South Texas Chapter

### CORPORATE MEMBERS

\$2000  
CITGO  
\$1000  
Valero  
\$ 500  
Branded by Web Design  
Gill Garden Center & Landscape Co  
\$ 250  
Aquaria Services, Inc.

### NEW PREMIUM LEVEL MEMBERS

#### SUSTAINING

Sherri & Charles Garza  
Bruce & Julia Standeford

#### IN-KIND DONORS

Ren Alamanza  
Bruce & Dedra Benedict  
Joe Berneking  
Brenda Bishop  
Adel Casiano  
Coberly Family  
Corpus Christi Caller Times  
Gulf Coast Humane Society  
KIII TV  
KLUX FM  
KRIS Communications  
Whitney Lance  
Grace Lopez  
Lowe’s Home Improvement  
Native Plant Society, Local Chapter  
Nueces Master Gardeners  
Orchid Conservatory Volunteers  
Plumeria Society of South Texas  
Safeguard Security  
SafeGuard Mini Storage  
Skid-O-Kan  
Mike Taylor  
Visit Corpus Christi  
Kay Yeager

## NEWLY SPONSORED ANIMALS

Ren Almanza

**BANDIT**

Checkered Garter Snake

Sue Blythe

**ABIGAIL**

African Tortoise

Karen & Robert Cage

**JACK**

Texas Indigo

Adel Casiano

**RIO**

Blue Macaw

Deborah Ferguson & Jo Karhohs

**SHELDON**

Box Turtle

Robin & John Garza

**RAIDER**

Bearded Dragon

Megan, Ethan, Savannah, Rylie Harper

**LICORICE**

Mexican Black King Snake

Norm Hendrick

**CRUSH**

Red-Eared Slider

Iris & Peony Kuehn

**MOE**

Southern Leopard Frog

Leah Malone

**TOFFEE**

Rosy Boa

Richard Schilling & Family

**FLORA**

Diamond Back Terrapin

Ann Snuggs

**IVAN**

Green Iguana

Shannon & Jackie Strickland

**RANGER**, Great Plains Rat Snake

**WILLOW**, Ball Python

**KING TUT**, Desert King Snake

Ryan & Simone Tobin

**TYLER**, Small Texas Tortoise

**RICHARDSON**, Large Texas Tortoise

**AJ**, Green Cheek Conure

**CHILE**, Green Cheek Conure



**THE ESTATE OF EUGENE H. BOULIGNY  
HONORS HIS MEMORY WITH A  
\$25,000 CHALLENGE MATCH  
A YEAR AFTER HIS DEATH**  
*(How to Help, Page 11!)*



**MOONLIGHT & MARIPOSAS  
IN THE GARDENS**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10**  
*(Pages 1-3)*



**HOLLY DAYS AT THE GARDENS**  
**Nov 28/29 • Dec 5/6 • 12/13 • 19/20**  
*(Pages 4, 5)*



OPEN DAILY, 9am - 6pm (except Thanksgiving Day, December 24, 25) ■ 8545 S. Staples St. ■ Corpus Christi, Texas 78413 ■ 361-852-2100 ■ Fax 361-852-7875  
WWW.STXBOT.ORG ■ Facebook.com/stxbot ■ SouthTexasBotanicalGardens ■ LinkedIn

## Good Bye to Plumeria; Hello to Orchids and Roses!



How lucky we are to live in a climate where our Botanical Gardens always is in bloom! Plumeria season is winding down, although still flowering, and plants will be dug up for winter greenhouse storage in November.

Meanwhile, the Orchid Conservatory enters one of two peak seasons you won't want to miss; while cooler weather and a fall pruning will brighten the Rose Garden for the Holidays!

