

**CLASSES and SPEAKERS** coordinated in collaboration with **NUECES COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**

## ALL SATURDAY CLASSES & WINTER LECTURES:

Make **RESERVATIONS** at 361-852-2100.  
Classes **FREE** with Membership, General Admission,  
Or \$5, unless special workshop.  
(ALL CLASSES begin at 9:30 AM.)

## WINTER LECTURES, 9:30 am, Wednesdays

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

- Jan 21** **Getting Started with Bonsai**  
David Whittaker, Corpus Christi Bonsai Club
- Jan 28** **Beginning Birding in the Coastal Bend**  
Libby Even, *Birdiest Festival in America*
- Fab 4** **Winter Care for Succulents & Cacti**  
Norma Hernandez, Kathy Fernandez, Master Gardener
- Feb 11** **Planning for Spring Veggies**  
Susan Gonzales, Nueces Master Gardener
- Feb 18** **Orchid Care & Blooming**  
Jorge Garcia, Orchid Conservatory Curator
- Feb 25** **Waking Up Your Plumeria**  
Renee Brown, Plumeria Society of South Texas &  
Master Gardener

### Saturday, Feb 7: DIY RAINWATER HARVESTING

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

### Saturday, 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.

### Saturday, 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.

### Saturday, 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.

**LOTS MORE SPRING CLASSES** being finalized...

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

The "birdiest" and probably the "funnest" birding festival in the country has in-depth van-style field trips to private ranches & other Texas Coastal hot-spots, with evening entertainment options & **Keynote Speaker** veteran birding guide **David Sarkozi**, **BBQ dinner**, **Beers & Birds**, more.

✓**Two Pre-Trips**, RGV or Texas Hill Country; **One Post-Trip**.  
✓**3 Birding Hot Spots** at **1 Super Festival!**

✓**6 Exclusive Full-Day Trips**.  
✓**13 Half-Day Trips**, morning & afternoon.  
✓**4 U-Drive Trips**.  
✓**Guided Bird Walks**.  
✓**TARGET BIRDS ONLINE!**

°**Workshops / Presentations**  
°**Exhibitor Tent / Raptor Project**  
°**Silent Auction / Raffle Drawings**  
°**Family Fun Day / Art Market**



**REGISTRATION \$40**, **Complete Schedule**, **all trips** at  
[www.BIRDIESTFESTIVAL.ORG](http://www.BIRDIESTFESTIVAL.ORG). [Denise@AquariaServicesinc.com](mailto:Denise@AquariaServicesinc.com)

### [BIG BLOOM Plant Sale "ON HOLD" for drought!]

Like 2025, Annual MEGA-PLANT SALE may not happen this year due to drought & watering restrictions. Watch **STXBOT.ORG** for further details on next **COMMUNITY DAY!**

## May 9 & 10: 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 370 **RECIPROCAL GARDENS** in the U.S. ([www.ahsgardening.org/rap](http://www.ahsgardening.org/rap).)

## June 20 & 21: FATHER'S DAY FREE WEEKEND

Just say, "**Lizards & Snakes**," & Dad gets in free! Enjoy **REP-TALES**, 10:30; gardens, Resident Reptiles, Gator Lake, trails, newly surfaced **Oso Loop Trail**-great place for Dad to walk the dog-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, 370 **Reciprocal Gardens!**

## July 4: FOURTH OFF for the 4<sup>th</sup>!

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!

## TBA: FAQ on GROWING PLUMERIA!

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

## TBA: 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, TBA, Free Admission. Proceeds support Botanical Gardens Plumeria Collection maintained by Plumeria Society.

LOTS MORE FALL CLASSES being developed...

### Oct 9: 'MOONLIGHT in the GARDENS'

Experience magic of Gardens in the moonlight... Delicious restaurant dining and beverage stations, including signature drink, music, dancing! Beautiful theme TBA. Enjoy garden strolls among tropical plumeria, orchids, bromeliads, butterfly release, silent auction & raffle, animal ambassadors and convenient valet service for a vibrant evening. **Watch for Sponsorships, Tickets info, STXBOT.ORG.**

**TBA: HAUNTED TRAIL.** 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. Watch for Tickets online, [www.stxbot.org](http://www.stxbot.org).

### HOLLY DAYS at the GARDENS

**5:30-7:30 pm: Nov 27/28 • Dec 4/5 • 11/12 • 18/19**

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, rollie 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, 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.

