

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

- 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
Celeste Davis, Horticulturist Texas State Aquarium
- 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 & 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.

Sat, Mar 7: TOMATOES 101

Choosing & growing the best tasty tomatoes, & treating disease or pests, with Justin Butts, Four String Farm.

Sat, Mar 14: ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES, MOTHS TO GARDENS

Brenda Sattler, The Butterfly Lady & author, teaches you exactly what nectar & larval blooming plants will attract butterflies & moths to your landscape, keeping water conservation in mind.

Sat, Mar 21: MORE THAN BRUSH

Learning about native plants on the Brennecke Nature Trail & other regional native shrubs & trees surviving for centuries without irrigation, with expert Ernie Schertz, Native Plant Society, Mid-Coast Master Naturalist, Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener.

Sat, Mar 28: IMPROVING CURB APPEAL WITH LESS WATER

Kathy Hubner, Landscape Designer for Gill Garden Center + Landscape Co., shares the latest trends in attractive water-saving landscape design.

Sat, Apr 4: CREATIVE WATER CONSERVATION & REUSE IDEAS

Discover ways you can collect & reuse water from your home to keep plants green without using the tap, with Dr. Micheal Womack.

Sat, Apr 11: STARTING MORE PLANTS:

Learn best plant propagation techniques from Master Gardener Propagation Specialist Renee Brown for multiplying your favorites!

Sat, Apr 18: GARDEN TO TABLE

Planning edible gardens for delicious home-cooked meals, including cooking demonstration, with Kayla Butts, dietician, nutritionist, author & co-owner of Four String Farms.

April 22-26: BIRDIEST FESTIVAL IN AMERICA

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, 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

° Super Saturday / Art Market & Water Smart Plant Sale

REGISTRATION \$40, Complete Schedule, all trips at

BIRDIESTFESTIVAL.ORG. Denise@AquariaServicesinc.com

April 25: WATER-SMART Plant Sale & GARDEN FAIR, \$2 Community Day, 10 am-5 pm, Members in at 9 am.

Plant & art vendors, traditional butterfly & ladybug releases, animal ambassadors, membership specials, food trucks. *Raptor Project* & Birding Exhibitor Tent offers entertainment from *Birdiest Festival!*

Shift from Big Bloom's thirstier landscape plants to water-thrifty inventory of natives, succulents, blooming nectar & larval pollinator plants, cacti, other low-water varieties, plus plumeria & orchids—**PLANT WATER-SAVERS!** Watch *STXBOT.ORG* for more.

May 2: DEDICATION OF OUTDOOR BONSAI EXHIBIT

10 am- 5 pm: Dedication of an outdoor Bonsai Exhibit with Asian Meditation & Zen Garden, Attractions partner Texas State Museum for Asian Cultures will join "Bonsai Bonanza," celebrating the start of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month--martial arts demonstrations, drum team, origami crafts, Asian culture games, activities for children. The Bonsai Exhibit, funded by *City of Corpus Christi Arts & Cultural Commission* and *C.C. Bonsai Club*.

Sat, May, 2: BONSAI BONANZA

Learn to train your tiny tree with David Whitaker, CC Bonsai Club.

Sat, May 9: FLORAL ARRANGEMENT WORK SHOP FOR

BEGINNERS For Mother's Day, learn to make beautiful floral arrangements from inexpensive super market bundles, with Alma Rayburn, retired H-E-B Florist. (\$25 workshop fee; \$20 members).

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.)

Sat, May 16: PICKING WATER EFFICIENT PATIO CONTAINERS

Learn how pot materials, shape & soil mix affect water efficiency for patio plantings, with Dr. Bill Fonteno, Prof. Emeritus of Horticulture, North Carolina State University.

Sat, May 23: KEEPING UP WITH THE MARTINS.

Learn to attract Purple Martins to your home & see the babies in our Martin colony, with Louise Chambers, retired Biologist, Purple Martin Conservation Association.

Sat, May 30: FRIEND OR FOE?

Know which bugs are good guys, which are pests, with Renee Brown, Nueces Master Gardener.

Registration Opens March 2 for ...

KIDS SUMMER NATURE CAMPS

\$150 Members/ \$175 Non-Members

June 8-12 **NATURE BUDDIES** Ages 6-8 9 am-Noon

June 15-19 **SNAKES & FRIENDS** Ages 9-13 9 am-Noon

June 22-26 **NATURE BUDDIES** Ages 6-8 9 am-Noon

July 6-10 **NATURE SHUTTERBUGS** Ages 9-13 9 am-Noon

July 6-10 **ECO-AMBASSADORS** Ages 9-16 1-4 pm

(Designed for youth who would like to volunteer at the Gardens on a regular basis in an area such as Animal Care!)

Engaging environmental learning experiences for campers include exciting reptile & parrot interactions, butterfly & other tiny critter observations, trail walks, nature crafts, journaling, more! Campers also may learn to use binoculars, compasses, mini-microscopes & cameras. All activities are age-appropriate conducted by Educators, Volunteers & Guest Presenters in a safe environment.

Campers should **BRING** a water bottle, hat and extra snack; and **WEAR** sunscreen, comfortable cool clothing and close-toed shoes. For registration and information, contact BrendaE@stxbot.org, 361-852-2100 x 223.

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 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!

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.

FALL SATURDAY CLASSES being planned now!

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.

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.



**FIELD TRIPS, ANIMAL AMBASSADORS
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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 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	<small>(plus admission)</small>
Both Reptiles/Parrots	30 minutes	\$105	<small>(plus admission)</small>

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

