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## South Texas Botanical Gardens presents educational 'WATER-SMART Plant Sale' 10 am-5 pm, April 25, on \$2 "Buds & Birds" Community Day!

South Texas Botanical Gardens learned a lesson skipping its popular Plant Sale in 2025: "People are gonna' buy Plants!" Trying to please in 2026, yet being good water stewards in an historic drought, the non-profit attraction will educate residents in water-smart landscaping and water conservation—in a new take on a popular event!

At The WATER-SMART Plant Sale, 10 am-5 pm, Saturday, April 25, a water-thrifty inventory of native plants, succulents, low-water perennials, blooming nectar and pollinator plants, cacti and other xeriscape varieties replaces traditional thirsty shrubs! Limited orchids propagated from the Conservatory and Plumeria starts also will be available. A vendor area will include specialty plants, artisans and City of Corpus Christi.

Like the old Big Bloom, the \$2 Admission 'Buds & Birds' Community Day includes traditional fun butterfly and ladybug releases, animal ambassadors, membership specials, food trucks--adding *Raptor Project* presentations and the *Exhibitor Tent* from *Birdiest Festival in America* held that week. Members enter FREE at 9 am.

"Critical water shortage calls for modern, airy landscape alternatives rather than a solid green "collar" hiding half the house," explained Marketing Director MaryJane Crull. "No need to fill every empty space. Blend water-smart plantings with decorative hardscape elements needing no water—rocks, colorful containers, imaginative wood pieces, sculpture, colorful metal décor, stone pathways! Even mulched empty spaces offer pleasing contrast with plant groupings," she added.



"We plan to offer education that day on *Designing for Xeriscape, Creative Water Capture & Reuse* plus large signs listing Xeriscape and Water-Smart plants which may be photographed to keep in phones," said Executive Director Dr Michael Womack. He added Corpus Christi Water (CCW) will have rain storage barrels for purchase, with water conservation materials available.

Besides obvious xeriscape examples, many will be pleasantly surprised which colorful blooming plants require significantly less water to survive once established—plants they never considered water-smart—like Duranta, Pride of Barbados, Bougainvillea, Esperanza, Lantana, Texas Sage, Firecracker Plant, Flame Acanthas, Turk's Cap, Salvias, Cenizo, Frog Fruit, Rock Rose, Agaves, Desert Rose, Ornamental Grasses, Thryallis . . .

To apply for **Birding Festival Artisan Vendors**, email [denise@aquariaservicesinc.com](mailto:denise@aquariaservicesinc.com). Applicants for **Plant or Water Conservation-related Vendors**, should email [kathie@stxbot.org](mailto:kathie@stxbot.org). For more information and schedule, follow [www.stxbot.org](http://www.stxbot.org), South Texas Botanical Gardens Facebook page, or 361-852-2100. # #

