

BIRDIEST FESTIVAL IN AMERICA

has classes, adventures, entertainment for any level of birder!

"Wings-Up" for Corpus Christi's ninth BIRDIEST FESTIVAL in AMERICA, April 22-26, plus two pre-trips and one post-trip! Experience spring migration at the hub of busiest migration flyways. Find ONLINE REGISTRATION and COMPLETE SCHEDULE at BIRDIESTFESTIVAL.ORG!

World-famous King Ranch is a highlight of 13 exclusive Full-Day and 13 Half-Day field trips to private ranches and shoreline hot spots in large vans with seasoned guides, plus four U-Drive excursions and Guided Bird Walks. Trips are selling out, with 18 states already represented. Find TARGET BIRDS and detailed trip site descriptions on the website.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER veteran birder, guide, author **David Sarkozi** presents *"Beyond the Birds of Texas—Interesting Things that Won't Fit into a Field Guide"* Friday evening, April 24.

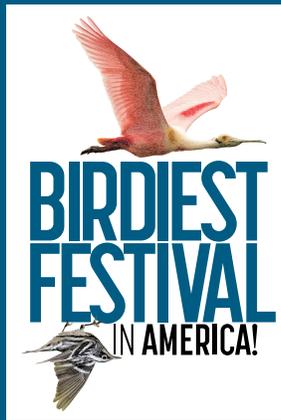
- ✓ Spring Migration on Texas Gulf Coast
- ✓ 2 Different Pre-Trips, 1 Post-Trip
- ✓ 6 EXCLUSIVE Full-Day Trips
- ✓ 13 Half-Day Trips, morning/afternoon
- ✓ 4 U-Drive Trips
- ✓ Guided Bird Walks
- ✓ TARGET BIRDS Online
- ✓ Workshops / Presentations
- ✓ Exhibitor Tent
- ✓ Jonathan Wood Raptor Project
- ✓ Silent Auction / Raffle Drawings
- ✓ Southern Welcome Texas BBQ, Live Music,
- ✓ 'Super Saturday' Community Day, Art Market & Plant Sale

WEBSITE: BIRDIESTFESTIVAL.ORG
QUESTIONS: Denise@aquariaservicesinc.com

**TIME'S
FLYING...**



SOUTH TEXAS BOTANICAL GARDENS & NATURE CENTER ■ WINTER 2025 / 2026 NEWS MAGAZINE





PRE & POST-TRIPS

April 18-22
RIO GRANDE VALLEY
OR
BEAUTIFUL TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

April 27-30
RIO GRANDE VALLEY

FULL-DAY FIELD TRIPS

King Ranch-Norias Division
King Ranch-Northern Areas
Barnhart Q5 Ranch & Nature Retreat
BIG DAY (Goal 150 Club)
Lake Choke Canyon State Park
Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area

HALF-DAY FIELD TRIPS

Joe Fulton Corridor & Hilltop Comm Center
Chasing Warblers & Other Migrants
Port Aransas Hot Spots
Shorebirds of the Coastal Bend
Knolle Farm & Ranch
Hazel Bazemore Park, Pollywog Pond
Texas Scramble
Kleberg County Hot Spots
Nueces Delta Preserve
Port A Hot Spots
Portland & Beyond
Welder Wildlife Foundation

WORKSHOPS

Demystifying Migrants:
A Songbird ID Workshop
South Texas Shorebirding Made Easy
Wildscaping for the Birds
Hawk Watching 101
INTRO to Birding

PRESENTATIONS

How to be a Better Birder
What's in a Name
Bird Strikes
Wintering Bird Population Trends



U-DRIVES

NEW Port A Hot Spots
NEW Rockport U-Drive
Fennessey Ranch
Oso Bay Wetlands/Hans Suter Park

NEW TRIPLE TRIP including:

White Cap Nature Preserve
Packery Channel
Held Moran Nature Sanctuary



2026 KEYNOTE SPEAKER, David Sarkozi, has birded since a teenager—45 years! The author of 614-page “Birds of Texas” has led countless birding trips in both Texas and Belize; and achieved two ‘Texas Big Years’—documented 500 species in a year, plus several other milestones. At the Festival he gives his entertaining presentation . . .

**“BEYOND THE BIRDS OF TEXAS—
interesting stories that
Won’t Fit into a Field Guide!”**

PRESENTING SPONSOR



WATER-SMART Plant Sale, vendors, entertainment, \$2 Admission, April 25!

The WATER-SMART Plant Sale and Garden Fair will be a \$2 Admission Community Day, 10 am-5 pm, Saturday, April 25, featuring plant and art vendors, traditional butterfly and ladybug releases, animal ambassadors, membership specials and food trucks. *Raptor Project* presentations and the Birding Exhibitor Tent offers more entertainment from 'Birdiest Festival in America'.

Due to the water shortage, more critical than last year, Botanical Gardens board reshaped the popular, BIG BLOOM Plant Sale from thirstier landscape plants to a water-thrifty inventory of natives, blooming nectar and larval pollinator plants, cacti, succulents, other lowwater varieties, plus plumeria and orchids. Members enter free at 9 am. Watch STXBOT.ORG for more.



New 'Nature Playscape' has greenhouse theme with adventure inside!

A contract has been signed for a unique botanical-themed expansion to the Children's Play Area, designed and manufactured by German company *Berliner Seilfabrik*.

Debuted at a European trade show, the playscape mimics a self-shaded greenhouse, with adventurous rope and cable climbing system inside. A "Garden Nook Playhouse" for younger children will be adjacent. The contractor plans installation later this spring after fence/walkway changes. Joyce Barnette's swings and Tree House (getting a new "trunk" and concrete base) are moving to a space nearby.

The generous Dobson Family Foundations' goal is to excite younger age groups with this innovative new way to play, bringing families on many repeat Gardens visits!

The Gardens welcomes assistance with new trees, landscape and infrastructure changes for this expansion. Contact wmmomack@stxbot.org.



LAND & SEA PARTNERSHIP

Attractions Partnership returns in February!

Corpus Christi's popular Land & Sea Partnership is back, with seven partners.

FEBRUARY means BIG SAVINGS if you're a member of any of these Corpus Christi attractions, with HALF-PRICE admission and 10 percent discounts in six of the gift shops!

* The Art Center charges no admission, has no gift shop discount, but bonuses there include a Public Art Collection Book and 10 percent off February art classes. All seven venues offer 10 percent off NEW memberships!

Bring your current membership card. See websites for hours and regular admission fees. Check websites for hours and regular admission prices.

In February, **TOUR like a TOURIST** — and support our city's cultural and educational attractions!

artmuseumofsouthtexas.org
ccmuseum.com
texasasianculturesmuseum.org
artcentercc.org

usslexington.com
stxbot.org
texasstateaquarium.org

Experience Monarchs overwintering in Central Mexico, eight days / seven nights

If experiencing Monarch Butterflies in their Mexican sanctuary forests is on your bucket list, then this exciting travel offering is for you!

The South Texas Botanical Gardens is coordinating a trip to central Mexico, February 9-16, 2027 to experience the amazing natural phenomenon of overwintering monarchs having made their annual migratory trek to the mountains of Central Mexico! Visiting these critically endangered forested habitat is thrilling for many nature-enthusiasts, who also will learn the culture of surrounding villages working to protect these environmentally sensitive spaces.



SIGN UP NOW. Reservation window closes July 1, 2026, only 12 spaces available!

THE EXPERIENCE: Bilingual field trip guides are available throughout the trip. The Monarch Experience begins the first night with an educational program, before venturing to three different monarch sanctuaries. (Most other trips focus on one or two locations). This trip is considered *moderate to highly active* by other tour groups. After an initial air-conditioned van ride with professional driver to each sanctuary, visiting the monarch sites then requires hiking and horseback rides (*platforms used for easy mounting*) led by local guides (*ejidatarios*).



ACCOMODATIONS, MEALS, TIPS: Double-occupancy rooms at a Bed & Breakfast in Macheros, with pool and hot tub! Seven breakfasts and dinners are included, with box lunches provided for field trips. Single occupancy available for additional \$995. Unlike many tour operators, this trip includes tips for hotel staff, field trips guides, drivers, and of course purified water refills.

MORE THAN MONARCHS: Also included are cultural experiences including a trip to pyramids of Teotihuacan and regional Mercado visit, tour of local avocado orchard, authentic regional Mexican cooking class, Macheros cottage industry and local museum tour. Experience the village culture in an immersion into this mountain village of Central Mexico.

COST: \$4695 plus tax (double occupancy) – plus Airfare to Mexico City (approximately \$575-\$800).

CONTACT: Michael Womack • wmwomack@stxbot.org • 361-852-2100.



PHOTOS:
Debbie Noble



MOONLIGHT & Mariposas in the GARDENS OCTOBER 10, 2025



More than 500 guests dined and sipped signature margaritas and botanical beer, enjoying fare from nine restaurants, bidding up their favorite auction items, taking chances on the "take-all-affle" and dancing in the moonlight! Entertainment featured local favorite Clarissa Serna Band followed by comedian Trey Armijo. Butterflies were everywhere including vibrant creative "mariposas" made by artists for "Mariposa Palooza!"

Presenting sponsor was CITGO, Corpus Christi Refinery. See all sponsors on large signs in the Gardens, and on STXBOT.ORG.

Save October 9, for MOONLIGHT 2026!



HOLLY-DAYS 2025



HOLLY-DAYS at the GARDENS hits peak attendance in 2025!

More than 8600 experienced HOLLY-DAYS vibrant lighting, Christmas trees of all sizes and materials, SANTA visits, s'mores & cocoa, hayrides and memorable photo opportunities with families, friends and house guests!

Weather cooperated each of four Fridays and Saturdays with average daily attendance at 719, and double the gift shop sales from last year!

Thank you to Presenting Sponsor **VALERO**; **Joyce Barnette** for the 21-foot lighted fir tree; **Wyldbyrd's Construction** for hayride trailer; **H-E-B** for Poinsettia Tree, Recycled Christmas Display, and FREE FRIDAYS "Explore More" Attractions Program!

PHOTOS: Debbie Noble



H-E-B's generosity supports multiple programs at Botanical Gardens!

Where do we start when thanking H-E-B for its generous support last year! Locally, **Gulf Coast Regional Office** funds fresh produce for our parrots and reptiles who love eating healthy—watermelon, grapes, bananas, lettuce, pistachios, strawberries. . . our Animal Care staff make sure they eat better than most humans!

H-E-B also puts special floral centerpieces on *Moonlight in the Gardens* tables each fall, flowers fitting each year's theme; 100 beautiful poinsettias for a tree at *Holly-Days*; and sponsors the popular Jonathan Wood "Raptor Project" at *Birdiest Festival in America*.

The **Explore More Program**, providing free admission to local museums in November and December, this year included the Gardens, for Fridays only—also covering admission to Friday Holly-Days. Total Friday admission in November/December jumping by 333 percent, doubling gift shop sales during *Holly Days*—H-E-B's admission adjustment of \$20,000 was a wonderful Christmas gift!

Thank you, H-E-B for support of Corpus Christi's Botanical Gardens, doubly welcomed during this unprecedented drought!



Third H-E-B Texas Recycles partnership offered free admission for nearly 900



The Botanical Gardens & Nature Center again was chosen as a Gulf Coast region hub for **H-E-B's Texas Recycles Day**, November 13-15, when guests bringing plastic bottles or single-use plastic bags got free admission, learning about the company's recycling logistics across Texas! Texas State Museum of Asian Cultures also taught recycled origami paper crafts November 14. Almost 900 visitors brought 1330 bags (20.4 lbs.); and 701 bottles (24.0 lbs.) not going to landfills.

H-E-B's San Antonio Environmental Affairs Department donated \$15,000 to offset free entry; awarded us a \$1000 gift card; and sponsored the "Recycled Christmas" exhibit at Holly-Days!



New Bonsai Exhibit with Asian Meditation & Zen Garden opening in May

A new outdoor learning garden will open this spring. Dedication of a **Bonsai Exhibit with Asian Meditation & Zen Garden**, and other activities will be 10 am-5 pm, Saturday, May 2, along with bonsai demos and classes by the Corpus Christi Bonsai Club.

Attractions partner **Texas State Museum of Asian Cultures** will join the day's "Bonsai Bonanza" celebrating the beginning of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month with martial arts demonstrations, drum team and Dragon Dance performances, origami crafts demonstration, Asian culture games and activities for children.



The Bonsai Exhibit, funded by City of Corpus Christi Arts & Cultural Commission and Bonsai Club, follows a walkway from the Butterfly Topiary to the Butterfly Garden, including a Zen Garden, rotating bonsai display by club members, meditation area with benches, artwork and water features, with a Zen-influence backdrop.

Volunteers are welcome to work with the Bonsai Club on preparation and installation to learn from local experts. Watch STXBOT.ORG or Facebook page for updates.



CCW 365
Corpus Christi Water Conservation

**Save water,
today and every day,
for tomorrow**

For information on Stage 3
Drought Restrictions, visit

stage3.cctexas.com

- ✓ Free General Admission (12 months)
- ✓ American Horticultural Society **RECIPROCAL ADMISSIONS PROGRAM**
(FREE admission to 360 Gardens in US) ▪ listing at 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

- 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

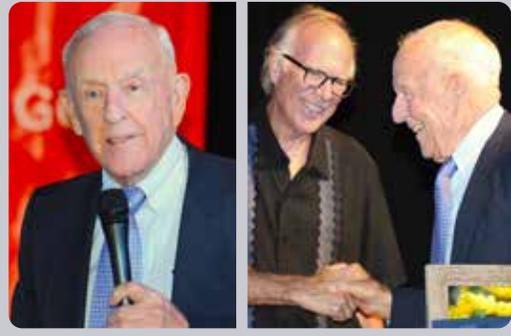
SIGNATURE

Eugene H. Bouligny Memorial \$25,000 Matching Grant exceeded!

Gene Bouligny not only was a generous benefactor, but also a friend always ready for a humorous conversation! He seemed one of those happy, forever-young people. All were saddened and surprised to learn of his passing.

By then he had blessed the Gardens with \$375,000 in matching grants, but not until we raised the specified amount in "new" projects or from "new" donors!

He loved MOONLIGHT in the GARDENS and brought charming wife Carmen, who felt the same. So we were amazed but not totally surprised receiving notice of another matching opportunity this fall.



His added \$25,000 was appropriately timed, after skipping 2025 BIG BLOOM, inappropriate with water restrictions. We sincerely thank his estate and family for including the Botanical Gardens in his latest challenge, and we treasure their friendship and support!

CITGO
FUELING GOOD

Proud to be An Energy Star Certified Facility

CLASSES and SPEAKERS coordinated in collaboration with NUECES COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

ALL WINTER LECTURES and SATURDAY CLASSES:
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!

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

Sat, Feb 7: DIY RAINWATER HARVESTING

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

Sat, 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.

Sat, 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.

Sat, Feb 28: LANDSCAPING WITH LESS WATER:

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

Sat, Mar 7: TOMATOES 101

Learn to choose and grow the best tasty tomatoes, and treating disease or pests, with Justin Butts, Four String Farm.

Sat, Mar 14: ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES, MOTHS TO GARDENS

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

Sat, Mar 21: MORE THAN BRUSH

Learning about native plants on the Brennecke Nature Trail and other regional native shrubs and 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 and reuse water from your home to keep plants green without using the tap, with Dr. Michael 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

Plan your edible gardens for delicious home-cooked meals. including cooking demonstration, with Kayla Butts, dietician/nutritionist/author and co-owner 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 and other Texas Coastal hot-spots, with evening entertainment options and **Keynote Speaker veteran birding guide David Sarkozi, BBQ dinner and Live Music**, more.

Two Pre-Trips, RGV or Texas Hill Country; One Post-Trip. 6 Exclusive Full-Day Trips. 13 Half-Day Trips, AM & PM. 4 U-Drive Trips. Guided Bird Walks. TARGET BIRDS ONLINE! Workshops/Presentations, Exhibitor Tent / Raptor Project. Silent Auction/Raffle Drawings. "Super Saturday," Apr 25!
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 and art vendors, traditional butterfly and ladybug releases, animal ambassadors, membership specials, food trucks. Raptor Project and 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 and larval pollinator plants, cacti, other low-water varieties, plus plumeria and 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 demonstration, 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 FOR BEGINNERS

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

Sat, May 9: FLORAL ARRANGEMENT WORKSHOP 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 Mom needs to say is "Butterfly," and she's in free! The rest of party pays general admission, unless members. **SPECIAL MOM'S DAY DEAL:** Buy her a membership this weekend, at 20% off, for a year of free admission, Nature's Boutique, Plant Sale 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 and 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 and 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.

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. NEW! SELF-DIRECTED with 1 Directed Station:

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 16 ft 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 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, or their Outdoor Enclosures



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



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 and parrot interactions, butterfly and other tiny critter observations, trail walks, nature crafts, journaling, more! Campers also may learn to use binoculars, compasses, mini-microscopes and cameras. All activities are age-appropriate conducted by Educators, Volunteers and 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.

GRANTS & DONATIONS

Ruth Camp
Coastal Bend Community Foundation
Dugan Family Foundation
Dr. & Mrs. Gaylord Hoyt
Ocean Drive Garden Club
Joni & Burris McRee
Aimee & Jason Paret
Plumeria Society of South Texas
Ed Rachal Foundation

MEMORIALS

Connor Bishop
Whitney & Chase Cappellari
Frank Cappellari
Charles Cappellari

Margaret Garrett
Gary Filipp
Amy Steit
Denise Moore

Dale McClure Stewart
MaryJane & Carl Crull
Joan & Kristen Hennings
Amy Nichols
Dr. Christina & Mr. Tristan Propst
Laima Reeder
Jerry Van Beveren
Michael Jo Rephlo

Dale & Tom Stewart
Lillian Bass

HONORARIUMS

Michael Womack
Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners

Patty Nuss
Becky Gardner

PHOTOGRAPHY Members

Violetta Milton Photography &
Gilmarie Pagan

Kathy Garcia Photography
Jake Villarreal & Carlos Medina
Photography

CLUB / SOCIETY Members

Audubon Outdoor Club
of Corpus Christi

Coastal Bend Audubon Society
Corpus Christi Aggie Moms
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

BENEFACTOR
Roger & Armi Pigott

SUSTAINING
Nadine & Virginia Case
Nancy & Oscar Chapa
Dawn M Hedrick & Jim
Ellingwood
Juliana Johnston
Rafael Ramirez & Bailey Moyers
Daniel & Madilyn Relayson
Rebecca Villasona & Lewis Roberts
Christine Saenz
Sylvia Saenz

IN-KIND DONORS

Ren Almanza
Bruce & Dedra Benedict
Brenda Bishop
Adel Casiano
Tony Clements
Coberly Family
Grace Lopez
Susan Ochoa
Celina & Jack Pulcher
Chloe Valdez
Corpus Christi Caller Times
KEDT Public Radio
KIII TV Ch 3
KLUX FM
KRIS TV 6 & 10
Native Plant Society, South Texas Chapter
Nueces Master Gardeners
Orchid Conservatory Volunteers
Plumeria Society of South Texas
Safeguard Security
SafeGuard Mini Storage
Skid-O-Kan
Visit Corpus Christi

NEWLY SPONSORED ANIMALS

The Ahern Family

TEQUILA

Blue-Gold Macaw

The Annex

LILY

Ball Python

Michael & Alexandria Elizondo

MANNY

Mexican Milk Snake

Devery Hunt, D.V.M.

COCOA

Texas Brown Tarantula

The Ruiz Family

MAIZE

Corn Snake

CHILE

Rose Hair Tarantula

Ann Snuggs

BAMBI

Leopard Gecko

COCOA

Texas Brown Tarantula

Olivia Tamez

EL JEFE

Sulcata Tortoise

Mexican
Milk Snake

MANNY



Leopard
Gecko

BAMBI



Ball
Python

LILY

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**



**WATER-SMART PLANT SALE,
WITH ART & PLANT VENDORS,
ALL BIG BLOOM FUN!**

\$2 Community Day, April 25!
(See p. 3)



**OUTDOOR BONSAI EXHIBIT
WITH ASIAN ZEN GARDEN**

Opens May 2
(See p. 7)



**UNIQUE "PLAYSCAPE"
PLANNED FOR
CHILDREN'S AREA EXPANSION**

(See p. 3)

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
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Nine percent increase raises 2025 Annual Fund to \$19,129!

Financially, end-of-year always is challenging with holidays, chilly weather, so many non-profits needing your generosity. Add in a government shut-down, and skipping the profitable BIG BLOOM in support of city water restrictions, an approximate \$50,000 budget shortfall! A nine percent increase over last year's ANNUAL FUND was a big help, as were successful events! Donors choose directing their donation to Gardens Stewardship, Children & Nature or Animal Ambassadors.

\$100-\$249

Sue Barley
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Thank You

To all our generous 2025 donors!