

**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*
- Feb 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. 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**  
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](http://BIRDIESTFESTIVAL.ORG). [Denise@AquariaServicesinc.com](mailto:Denise@AquariaServicesinc.com)

**April 25: WATER-SMART Plant Sale, 'Blooms & Birds'**  
**\$2 Community Day, 10 am-5 pm, Members in at 9 am.**  
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 & art vendors, traditional butterfly & ladybug releases, animal ambassadors, membership specials, food trucks. *Raptor Project & Birding Exhibitor Tent offers entertainment from Birdiest Festival!*  
**PLANT WATER-SAVERS!** Watch STXBOT.ORG, Facebook 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.**

**9:30 am, Sat, May, 2: BONSAI Class**  
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](http://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.

**NEW: BONSAI IN THE GARDENS Summer Series, 9:30 am, Saturdays, Bonsai Garden Area, Bring your Chair!**  
**FEE: Same as Saturday Classes, Reservations, 361-852-2100.**  
**May 23:** Repotting 'Big Pink Pixie', routine maintenance.  
**June 6:** Repotting 'Ficus', routine maintenance.  
**July 11:** Trimming, Wiring, general maintenance all trees.  
**Aug 15:** Creating "Shari" & "Jin" on 'Big Pink Pixie'.  
**Instructors:** David Whitaker, Jorge Mendizabal, M.D.

Registration Open 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 fun 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 age-appropriate with Educators, Volunteers, Guest Presenters in 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 3 & 4: \$2.50 off Admission for USA|250

Celebrate AMERICA'S NATURAL BEAUTY at the Botanical Gardens with **\$2.50 off Admission** on July 3 & 4, a "big bang" for your bucks! Just \$7.50 ages 13-59; \$5.50 Srs / Active Military / College; \$3.50 ages 3-12. Under 3 & Members free! Bring a picnic; dogs on leash; but **NO FIREWORKS** allowed!

**2 pm, Friday, July 3 ONLY: Parade & Most Patriotic Costume Winners**—Adults, Youth to age 15, Animals. Membership or Gift Certificate to 1<sup>st</sup> place all 3 categories.

### Sat, July 11: FAQ on GROWING PLUMERIA!

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

### July 18: Plumeria Society PLUMERIA SALE

#### Garden Senior Center, 5325 Greeley.

Local plumeria lovers look forward to this annual sale when Plumeria Society members sell from private stock both in stick & larger potted plant forms! Sale from 10 am-1pm, Saturday, Free Admission. Proceeds support Botanical Gardens Plumeria Collection maintained by Plumeria Society.

**Sat, Sept 5: FALL VEGGIES FOR CONTAINERS & RAISED BEDS**  
 Nueces Master Gardener Susan Gonzales shares how to grow fresh vegetables in containers & raised beds and why fall gardens can be better than spring.

**Sat, Sept 12: TEXAS WILDFLOWER LEGENDS, PLANTING TIPS**  
 Executive Director & Horticulturist Dr. Michael Womack shares intriguing wildflower folklore; & why fall is best time to plant.

**Sat, Sept 19: REPOTTING & REBLOOMING ORCHIDS**  
 Orchid Curator Jorge discusses fall orchid care techniques to keep orchids healthy in cooler months and thriving next year!

**Sat, Sept 26: JOYS & BENEFITS OF HERBAL TEAS**  
 Learn how to grow & use herbs for healthy homemade teas from Cindy Meredith of *The Herb Cottage*, in Hallettsville.

**Sat, Oct 3: CITRUS CARE & GRAFTING** – Learn about citrus care, & techniques for bud grafting, on both young and established trees with Nueces Master Gardener Renee Brown.

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

MUSIC: "Diamond's Edge"

MAGIC: "James Arthur, The Mentalist"



Experience Gardens in the Moonlight... Delicious restaurant dining & beverage stations, including signature drink, music, dancing! Garden strolls among tropical plumeria, orchids, bromeliads, butterfly release, silent auction & raffle, animal ambassadors & convenient valet service-- a vibrant evening.

**Watch for Sponsorships, Tickets, STXBOT.ORG. (page 7)**

**Sat, Oct 17: NATURAL HABITATS AND WILDLIFE GARDENING**  
 Ecologist and author Dr. Shaun McCoshum shares how to turn your yard into a haven for pollinators, birds & other wildlife!

**Oct 16, 27, 30: HAUNTED TRAIL.** Ghosts & witches roam Gardens habitat waiting for visitors to come down the "Haunted Trail," Staff--who care for snakes and tarantulas—guide you! You'll hayride back, for light refreshments.

**Watch for Tickets online, STXBOT.ORG.**

**Sat, Oct 24: 3 P's of TREES: PURCHASING, PLANTING, PRUNING**  
 Learn these tree essentials for success from Arborist and owner of *The Tree Amigos*, John Wood.

### Sat, Oct 31: FALL FLORAL DESIGN WORKSHOP

Alma Rayburn, retired HEB Florist, teaches how to create stunning arrangements using cut flowers and plants from your yard. Participants take home their creations. (\$35/\$30 mbrs)

**Sat, Nov 7: COLD WEATHER CARE—PLUMERIA, TROPICALS**  
 Nueces Master Gardener, Plumeria Society of South Texas member Renee Brown provides tips for getting plumeria and other tropicals ready for winter storage.

**Sat, Nov 14: MAINTAINING RAINWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM**  
 Nueces Master Gardener Rainwater Harvesting Specialist Tom Andrews provides tips to keep your rainwater systems efficient and clean, plus other harvesting options including bioswales and home waste stream captures.

### HOLLY DAYS at the GARDENS



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

Four magical holiday weekends celebrating joys of the season with a huge 18' recycled ECO CHRISTMAS TREE made of lighted green plastic bottles plus 4 smaller ones, by artist Shelia Rogers! Lighting displays, more trees, visits with SANTA, hayrides, S'mores & Cocoa, animal ambassadors, **more TBA.**

-----**YOUTH FIELD TRIP OPTIONS**-----

(June & July: Self-Directed Field Trips only)

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.

