

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. 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.)

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 America|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 1st 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, 23, 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 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.

