



NEWSLETTER: FALL 2020

IT'S FOR THE BIRDS!

The “old hoop greenhouse” has been skillfully repurposed into a 30 x 40-foot weatherproof structure, stabilized with its original framework, new polycarbonate roof, concrete slab floor and wood walls, complete with heaters, exhaust and circulating fans, doors and windows. It’s not for plants, but mainly “for the birds,” for popular parrot and reptile interactions with visitors, and animal education sessions for youth on school field trips, camps, birthday parties, etc. The newly-named “PARROT HUT” also will shelter parrots from extreme winter cold, and allow scheduled interactions like “Parrot Talk” to continue in inclement weather, leaving the Education Station classroom open for other uses.

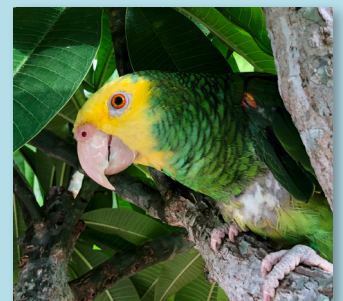


Funded by a \$25,000 Ed Rachal Foundation grant, contractor Larry Lysinger is working toward a Thanksgiving move-in, although veterinary technical advice has altered some plans along the way.

The Parrot Hut is just one improvement in the Staples St. section of the Gardens—including replanting and resurfacing pathways and adding drainage in the Tropical Garden, set back by 2017’s Hurricane Harvey; Samuel Jones Orchid Conservatory improvements; plus improved heating and ventilation systems, new interior features and additional plant varieties in the Anderson Bromeliad Conservatory. Purified water from the Orchid Conservatory’s Reverse Osmosis System also will be piped underground to the Bromeliad Conservatory.

Tropical Garden, Bromeliad Conservatory and Orchid Conservatory enhancements are just three of the projects funded by *MOONLIGHT toasts the FUTURE 2020*, scheduled for September 25, but cancelled due to the pandemic.

Read more about amazing MOONLIGHT outcomes on the next two pages . . .



MOONLIGHT shown bright, even without night in Gardens, thanks to 47 generous donors!

Event Chairs:

**SHIRLEY MIMS
HUGH DOBSON**

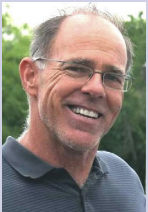
COMMITTEE

**Gloria Hicks • Jay & Conni Wise • Jules Alcala • Manette Scanio
Holly Osborn • Jessica Gilmore • Patty Nuss • Alex Garcia
Kimberly DeVisser • Deneece Squires • Sammie Grunwald**

Staff Planners: **Michael Womack, Executive Director • MaryJane Crull, Marketing Director**



Mims



Dobson

It was to be the year *MOONLIGHT* was returning to the Botanical Gardens, after five years' absence for weather and road construction! Plans included multiple food and beverage stations, auction, take-all raffle, strolling the gardens, dancing to a hot DJ spinning decades of favorite music amped-up by lighting effects, a photo booth—the most exciting, casual *MOONLIGHT* ever. Two challenge grants added to the anticipation!

The August 28 date was postponed to September 25. But while pre-sold sponsorship dollars rose to new highs, so did pandemic numbers. And before invitations could even be printed, Botanical Gardens Board members realized the beautifully-orchestrated *MOONLIGHT toasts the FUTURE* could not safely be held in 2020!

Insightful planning from the start, however, played out favorably for the non-profit Botanical Gardens. The majority of 2020 sponsorships were designed as STEWARDSHIP SUPPORT—upkeep and enhancements of our existing facilities to improve visitor experience, and “toast the future!” Each sponsor selected a “giving level,” along with specific exhibit or garden to support.

When told there would be no event, all sponsors agreed to leave their funds for uses intended—making the South Texas Botanical Gardens visit an improved experience—setting the stage for more guests, more members, and added exhibits—and record-setting \$254,000 in revenue!

THE BOTANICAL GARDENS & NATURE CENTER THANKS OUR GENEROUS STEWARDSHIP SPONSORS!

IN-KIND DONORS

we've asked to take a rain-check!

Highly-anticipated features of *MOONLIGHT toasts the FUTURE 2020* were the tempting food and beverage menu, photo booth, and other surprises scheduled from the following in-kind donors:

**Bernard's Catering
Brewster Street South
CC Produce
H-E-B
Jason's Deli
Texas Roadhouse
Water Street Oyster Bar**

**3 Wild Horse Distillery
L&F Distributors
AEP Texas
Fonzie Munoz Photography**

CITGO is Fueling Good Things in South Texas Communities



CITGO is committed to safeguarding the environment we all share—for today and generations to come. Besides numerous employee-driven environmental efforts here in Corpus Christi, we invest in long-term programs dedicated to the promotion of energy efficiency and restoration of natural habitats.



citgocorpuschristi.com
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MOONLIGHT TOASTS the FUTURE 2020

Gardens 'STEWARDSHIP ENHANCEMENT' Sponsors



PRINCIPLE BENEFACTORS

Eugene Bouligny

Gardens Challenge Match

Special Friend of the Gardens

Moonlight Challenge Match

Joyce Barnette

'Back to the Gardens'

CITGO Corpus Christi Refinery

Presenting Sponsor

Port Corpus Christi

Walk in the Wild

SUSTAINING SPONSORS

Nelwyn Anderson

Gill Landscape Nursery

Hollon Safe Company

Gaylord & Sue Hoyt

B.J. & Mike Kershaw

Lia & Tim Lange

**NavyArmy Community
Credit Union**

Sterling Personnel, Inc.



STELLAR SPONSORS

AEP Texas

Barbara Little

Thetis & Judge Loyd Neal

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Betty & Lowell Thomas

Deneece Squires

Holly Osborn / Sammie Grunwald

PATRON DONORS

Cindy & Mike Boudloche

Building Bridge Foundation

Hugh Dobson

Emily Ann's Family Foundation

June & Steve Herbst

Gloria Hicks

Hicks Automotive Group

Amanda & Ken Kellar

John G. & Marie Stella

Kenedy Memorial Foundation

Las Aguilas Enterprises

Shirley Mims, Frijolia Ranch

Patty & Hank Nuss

Susan & Tom Utter

Valero Energy Foundation

Gay & Tom Wimberly

Conni & Jay Wise

SUPPORTING SPONSORS

The Adler Family

Vishal Raju Bhagat Foundation

Charlene & John Chesshir

Frost Bank

Catherine & Bob Hilliard

State Rep. Todd Hunter

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Manette & Richard Scanio

Southside Lions Club

ValueBank Texas



Gardens 'powers up' for brighter future!

The Gardens "amped up" its lighting efforts in 2020!

Board member Hugh Dobson not only funded but also installed up-lighting for Gateway Project palm trees, donated by Lura and Tom Dietze; and added enhancement lighting for the Gateway Project water feature, funded by Patty and Hank Nuss.

Dobson also lighted the Whataburger Gazebo in the Gateway, pictured above left.

He purchased two ceiling fans to cool the Rose Pavilion, and installed up-lighting on all Pavilion columns. Pavilion electrical outlets were replaced; and spotlights installed enhancing oak trees lining the Festival Area.

Dobson then secured "*Moonlight toasts the Future*" stewardship donations for a transformer, underground powerline, and new electrical panels and outlets near the EarthKind Garden, from *Las Aguilas Enterprises* and *Building Bridge Foundation*.

These additions will eliminate rented generators used in the past; and can power electricity for two large Gardens owned festival tents—"*Moonlight*" donations from Dobson and Gloria Hicks—for internal and rental events.

Christmas lighting effects, as well as future facilities and exhibits also will benefit from added power capability! Still needed are two Rose Pavilion chandeliers.

Income tax provisions for charitable donations different for 2020!

March 27, the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act* was signed into law in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It includes important tax provisions for donors who contribute to 501 (C)(3) non-profits, like the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, in 2020.

NEW DEDUCTION: A taxpayer can deduct charitable cash gifts up to \$300 (\$600 for a married couple), even if you don't itemize charitable deductions. It is an "above the line" adjustment to income, which will reduce a donor's adjusted gross income (AGI). This is available for cash gifts to public charities, but gifts to Donor Advised Funds do not qualify.

NEW CHARITABLE DEDUCTION LIMITS: Individuals who itemize can deduct much greater amounts of their contributions. Income limit for cash contributions to charity rises to 100% of 2020 AGI (from current 60% limit).

Any cash gifts in excess of that limit can be carried forward to the next year. Cash gifts to Donor Advised Funds do not qualify for the 100% income limitation.

IRA REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS WAIVED FOR MOST DONORS: For 2020, with some limitations, eligible IRA owners will not be subject to the required minimum distributions (RMD), though donors can still, if they wish, make a qualified charitable deduction (QCD) gift. Donors directing a QCD to charity this year (up to \$100,000 per individual) will still reduce their taxable IRA balance. This allows all taxpayers, itemizers, and non-itemizers alike, to direct gifts from their IRA to charities, such as the Botanical Gardens, in a tax-efficient manner.

(Information from Coastal Bend Community Foundation 2020 Fall Newsletter)

**Consult your tax preparer, or financial advisor
for advice or further information.**



During April's one-month COVID-19 closure, the Visitors Center REPTILE ROOM was inventively reimagined from a brown-carpeted, pastel-blue wall, wooden display case décor into a glossy stained-concrete floor, modern fixture, shiny metal and glass minimalist look! This slightly mystical, modern-looking atmosphere for snakes, lizards, dragons and such delights kids—and cleans up easily for staff.

In fact, the Animal Care staff, interns and volunteers created this magical effect themselves, except flooring labor, donated by Wildbyrd's Construction & Specialty Flooring.

All indoor resident reptiles live here to be seen first or last by visitors. It's a definite favorite on school field trips, summer and intersession break camps—indeed an unusual exhibit for a botanical garden!

But where's Ivan? See Ivan in his own home near the Orchid Conservatory. Other iguanas live in the Iguana House. Tortoise pens are on the tree line near the Kids Play Area. All reptile facilities have been upgraded in the past six months.

ANIMAL CARE IN-KIND DONORS

- Dedra & Bruce Benedict
- Leslie & Bob Bennett
- Nyah Seong Bi
- Kelsey Bradshaw
- Emiliee Clark
- Sebastian Crawford
- Lindsey & Reign Durrent
- Carol Krank
- Allison Martin
- Sara Schey
- Texas Sealife Center
- Michael Wyatt Aerial Photography
- Wildbyrd's Construction & Specialty Flooring



Wetland viewing deck behind Arid Garden rebuilt by volunteers

Volunteers Jose Diaz and Allison Martin, a former employee, rebuilt the 8 x 10-foot viewing deck behind the Arid Garden, restoring a panoramic view of the large wetland and sand flats where bird and wildlife often are observed by visitors, like these youth.

The AEP Foundation, based in Ohio, has awarded the Botanical Gardens & Nature Center \$25,000 to build phase one of the *Outdoor Learning Center*, between the EarthKind Demonstration Trial Gardens and parking area fence.

Designed for school field trips, children's camps, as well as family learning, the project will include a large crushed granite surface, covered by the first of two 24 x 40-foot metal shade structures; aluminum bench seating, and crushed granite pad for a future hydroponics garden demonstration area.

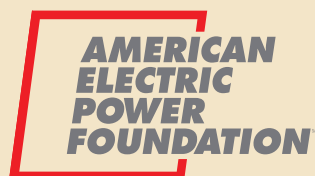
"Education and shade are two things we never can have enough of," emphasizes Executive Director Dr. Michael Womack. "Learning outside is the ideal way," he added.

Many plants in the EarthKind beds, another education feature, do well in all parts of Texas, designated by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service as 'Texas Super-Stars.'

Southside Lions Club donates \$5000

The South Side Lions Club has donated \$5000 towards a teaching pond, and sizeable bench for the *Outdoor Learning Center*.

AEP Foundation gives \$25,000 for 'Outdoor Learning Center' phase I



'HOLLY-DAYS in the GARDENS' celebration spans four weekends!

A live, lighted 20-foot fir tree, with thousands of colored lights, on the Rose Garden lawn, will be the centerpiece for Holly-Days at the Gardens, Friday nights and Saturdays,

November 27/28 ■ December 4/5 ■ 11/12 ■ 18/19!

At a large Rose Pavilion tree, guests may enjoy photos with Santa! New this year are hay rides, petting zoo, 'Holiday Photos with Merry Macaws,' and 'Picture Time with Tortoises.'

More trees will "spruce" up the Orchid Conservatory, Bromeliad Conservatory and Butterfly House, with lighting displays and holiday cut-out photo ops scattered through Gardens. Kids' crafts, story times, caroling sing-alongs, s'mores and hot cocoa will create more holiday memories!

Special scenery and the majority of activities are included in general admission, thanks to sponsors Valero Bill Greehey Refineries, Port Corpus Christi, and Joyce Barnette—giving her third Holly-Days fir tree!

"Merry Macaw" photo sessions, by reservation only, are \$15 for 15 minutes, benefitting Animal Care program. Prepackaged s'more and cocoa are \$5 per person.

For more information, call 361-852-2100.



FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENINGS

5:30-7 **Photos w/MERRY MACAWS** . .Bromeliad House
15 min/\$15. Photos by staff, using your device.
Reservations only, 361-852-2100.

6-7:30 **TREES & LIGHTS; Holiday Cut-Out Photo Ops**

PHOTOS with SANTA Rose Pavilion
S'mores & Cocoa \$5 Fire Pits near Pavilion
New Reptile Room Open ... Visitors Center

6:30 **Caroling Sing-Along** Rose Pavilion

SATURDAY

9-6 **TREES & LIGHTS; Holiday Cut-Out Photo Ops**

10-1 **Picture Time with decked-out Tortoises**
10-1 **Photos with SANTA; Holiday Crafts** ... Rose Pavilion

11-11:30 **Storytime** Rose Pavilion
Noon **Caroling Sing-Along** Rose Pavilion

1-4 **Petting Zoo, Hay Rides** ... Tent behind Rose Pavilion
4:30-5 **Rep-Tales** Reptile Room, Visitors Center
5:30 **Story Time** Rose Pavilion

'Birdiest Festival in America' registration opens December 15, online!

Corpus Christi's "Birdiest Festival in America" is in final planning stages, set for April 21-25, based at the Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, its unique field trips spreading out across the Texas Coastal Bend. Registration opens December 15, at WWW.BIRDIESTFESTIVAL.ORG.



The festival welcomes keynote speaker, renown author and illustrator of *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, David Allen Sibley, presenting "The Art of Identification," Friday, April 23, included in \$35 basic Festival registration, or separate ticketing!

Before COVID-19 cancellation, the 2020 festival had doubled its registration! Now larger and longer, 2021 brings birders to the Gulf Coast to experience amazing spring migration in perhaps the busiest flyway in the country, featuring 15 different field trips to famous South Texas ranch and coastal hot spots, one led by Sibley.

Also scheduled are 6 presentations; 2 workshops; 3 different bird walks; multiple Jonathan Wood Raptor Project shows; opening reception with Happy Hour cash bar and Texas BBQ dinner; Vendor Trade Show; artisan booths; Saturday Family Fun Day; and a brand new 4-day RIO GRANDE VALLEY post-trip, limited to 8 participants!

DETAILS, SCHEDULE, www.birdiestfestival.org, 361-563-5968.

MEMBERSHIP: What you get, how to join!

- ✓ Free General Admission (12 months)
- ✓ American Horticulture Society **RECIPROCAL ADMISSION PROGRAM**
(FREE admission to 330 Gardens in US) listing at www.ahsgardening.org/rap
- ✓ 10% Discount at: **Turner's Gardenland & Bay Area Landscape**
(with valid STBGNC Member Card & ID) (excludes labor, sale items)
Feathered Friends & Co. (excludes birds)
- ✓ **FREE Better Homes & Gardens OR Martha Stewart Living Magazine Subscription**
- ✓ 10% Discount at **Nature's Boutique** year-round (STBGNC Gift Shop)
- ✓ 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		\$ 35
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple *		\$ 50
<input type="checkbox"/> Family *		\$ 75
<input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent **		\$ 75
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	(Family or GP + 2 guests)	\$ 100
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	(Family or GP + 4 guests)	\$ 250
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	(Family or GP + 6 guests)	\$ 500
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	(Family or GP + 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

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



Parrots "movin' on up" to roomier, safer, healthier, designer homes!

This prototype parrot enclosure, designed and built by volunteers Bruce Benedict (pictured above) and Sebastian Crawford, is 6 x 6 x 8 feet, with concrete floor for easier cleaning, pest and predator control. The smaller mesh, 14-gauge hardware cloth keeps raccoon paws and little fingers out, and is difficult for residents to bite through. Galvanized cloth will be cleaned with vinegar solution eliminating most Zinc coating.

The walk-in enclosure with a wood door makes perching and cleaning easier and safer, while eliminating wire doors thwarting predators, like raccoons. No wire locks or clips are needed, saving money and time, in quick evacuation.

A "secondary containment" is a safety spot for inclement weather, eliminating most needs to relocate during cold weather. This area will be covered with the same siding used on Parrot Hut, for protection.

A partial solid roof allows natural sunlight, important to birds' health. The slightly-sloped roof will allow run off eliminating space for insects or small critters to make homes. Inside 4 x 4's are treated wood protected by stainless steel 'L' rods.

PLEASE MAIL TO: South Texas Botanical Gardens
8545 S. Staples St. ■ Corpus Christi, Texas 78413

ADULT LEARNING

Normally, we offer several in-person ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES, unlimited in size. Due to COVID-19 protocol, we now are scheduling in-person classes for up to 16 participants, by reservation only, required social distancing and facemasks. Or, ZOOM ACCESS is available.

**All class/lecture fees are: FREE with membership or admission; \$5 others.
Reservations at 361-852-2100; or email info@stxbot.org for ZOOM info.**

MEMBERS' 20% OFF HOLIDAY Nature's Boutique SALE!

Saturday, November 7-Thursday, December 31.

You've been waiting for this—the annual 20% off all non-sale merchandise shopping spree, for MEMBERS ONLY. We're starting early this year, since many of you will be mailing instead of delivering in-person! A delightful reasonably-priced selection awaits, with more arriving soon. Bring your MEMBERSHIP CARD, renew if needed, or join during the sale, and get all the MEGA BENEFITS of membership! **(There's a form in this newsletter, page 8); or join ONLINE, at www.stxbot.org.**

{SPECIAL EVENT} HOLLY-DAYS at the GARDENS!

Four weekends! Nov 27/28, Dec 4/5, 11/12, 18/19.

Friday evenings and Saturdays, old and new activities, including the 20' fir tree, lots of lights, holiday trees, petting zoo, hayrides, lots of photo ops, s'mores and hot cocoa around fire pits, SANTA!

(SEE FULL STORY, SCHEDULE, PAGE 7).

Sponsors: Valero, Port Corpus Christi, Joyce Barnette

WINTER LECTURE SERIES, 10-11am, Wednesdays.

Residents and winter guests love this Wednesday morning series, where you enjoy a cup of coffee, new acquaintances, and new knowledge about Texas Coastal Bend horticulture, environmental education, other interesting topics, from different guest speakers each week.

Jan 20	Edible Gardens	Deb Holliday, Master Gardener
Jan 27	Trees for South Texas	Michael Womack, Exec. Director
Feb 3	Face Lift for Landscapes	Whitney Lance/Color by the Door
Feb 10	Growing Orchids on a Stick	Jorge Garcia, Orchid Curator
Feb 17	Plumeria Winter Wakeup	Melissa Garcia, Plumeria Society
Feb 24	Monarch Waystations	Rosemary Plank, Master Naturalist

ABCs OF SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING

Saturday, February 6, 9:15 am–10:15 am.

Carol Krank, STBGNC Horticulturist, along with Nueces County Master Gardeners Deb Houlihan and Frank Eicholz, share secrets and life-times of gardening experiences on the best vegetable varieties, planting techniques, and how to head off potential problems in your spring vegetable garden, maximizing your harvest.



GARDENING IN SAND

Saturday, February 20, 9:15 am–10:15 am.

Frank Guererro of Bloomers Nursery in Rockport provides insights for gardening in sandy soils including plant selections, soil preparation, and other techniques to master this challenging growing environment.

NEW VARIETIES AND OLD FAVORITES FOR LANDSCAPES

Saturday, March 6, 9:15 am–10:15 am., (ZOOM ONLY).

Kathy Hubner, Landscape Designer at Gill Landscape Nursery, shares examples of new plant varieties for local landscapes, providing information on some of her favorite plant picks that have performed consistently through the years to give you more choices on sprucing up your landscape in spring. Get ideas from her years of experience on how to jazz up those old "mustache" landscapes to create a vibrant new look with lots of curb appeal!

{SPECIAL EVENT} SPRING BREAK

Daily Activities, March 6-21!

Students off during two big spring break weeks, can fill a day at the Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, touring and joining special activities:

REPT-TALES, daily 10:30–11:00 am

PARROT TALK, daily 1:30–2:00 pm

NATURE PLAY, about an hour, daily at 2:30 pm, creative thinking using natural building blocks like "tree cookies," woodblocks, stones, other fun youth activities, to encourage self-guided outdoor play.

ON YOUR OWN, explore nature trails, wetland boardwalk, wildlife blinds, floral conservatories, gardens, "Resident Reptiles," Butterfly House, Monkey Mansion Tree House, more. General Admission covers all.

KITCHEN HERBS

Saturday, March 20, 9:15 am–10:15 am.

Nueces Master Gardener Deb Holliday and her "herbie" compadres will provide insights into selecting and growing culinary herbs to spice up your recipes. Tastings of select dishes also are provided as they share ways to use herbs in your meals.

{SPECIAL EVENT} BIRDIEST FESTIVAL IN AMERICA

Wednesday-Sunday, April 21-25.

Spotlighting South Texas peak spring migration in one of country's busiest flyways, festival features optional guided birding field trips to regional hot spots, shorebird/wading bird sites, and private ranches. "The Raptor Project" presentations, vendor tradeshow; NEW THIS YEAR:



KEYNOTE SPEAKER, Noted Birder, Author, and Illustrator DAVID SIBLEY will share insights on migration on Friday, April 23rd.

(SEE ARTICLE, PAGE 7).

Registration open Dec. 15. Details, www.birdiestfestival.org.

POLLINATOR GARDENS

Saturday, May 1, 9:15-10:15.

Nueces Master Gardener Deb Houlihan provides insights on planting a garden that attracts a variety of visiting pollinators to your landscape. Learn about great plant varieties that attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees to your garden.

{SPECIAL EVENT} MOTHERS DAY FREE WEEKEND

MOMS GET IN FREE! Saturday, Sunday, May 8-9.

Celebrate Mothers' Day Weekend with us! At Visitors Center Check-in, all a mother needs to say is "Moms Love Flowers!," and she gets in free. Sorry, the rest of the family pays general admission. (Of course, members always get in free.)

SPECIAL MOMS DAY DEAL: Buy Mom a membership this weekend, at 20% off for a year's worth of free admission, Nature's Boutique, nursery, BIG BLOOM and other discounts, national magazine subscription, plus 330 Reciprocal Gardens around the Country (www/ahsgardening.org/rap).

YOUTH EXPLORERS!

FAMILY FIELD TRIPS

Are an excellent way to learn about FLORA, FAUNA and have FAMILY FUN at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center! Family Field Trips are designed for up to SIX people, including adults, \$40 for the GROUP, if members; or \$60 non-members, general admission included.

Up to a two-hour educational, entertaining experience includes your choice of 4 intriguing field trip stations; plus a science investigation or nature craft. Request a date and time ANY day of the week, from 9 am to 6 pm. Experience includes private use of Play Area. Participants also receive mini-nature journals, and Gardens keepsakes!

HOLIDAY BREAK/Intercession Camps

During school break, youth investigate our newly-remodeled Reptile Room, parrot enclosures, butterfly habitat, other insect areas (etc), through science investigations, nature photography, animal interactions and nature crafts, in 4 daily 9-noon sessions.

Each morning begins in Education Station, followed by the day's adventure, in groups of 8 or less! Each camper receives a camp t-shirt or backpack, daily snack, nature journal and nature craft take-homes. \$125 members, \$135 others.

SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS: Reservations now available!

Contact Brenda, EDUCATION COORDINATOR
for all information, scheduling, topic choices!

Brenda Ermis, 361-852-2100; or brendae@stxbot.org

LARGE GIFTS

Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept
City of Corpus Christi
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Dept
Eugene Bouligny
Devary Durrill Foundation
Joyce Barnette
Ed Rachal Foundation
Anne & Hugh Dobson
AEP Foundation
CITGO
Port Corpus Christi
Valero
NavyArmy CCU
Gloria Hicks
H-E-B
Coastal Bend
Community Foundation
The Harvey Family
Alice Kleberg
Reynolds Foundation

United Way
Covid Relief
Southside Lions Club
Plumeria Society
of South Texas

CONTRIBUTIONS

Pamela Allen
Joyce Barnette
Dedra & Bruce Benedict
Brenda & Connor Bishop
Louise Chambers
Joyce Dugan
Debbie Dumesnil
Rebecca Elzner
Anastasia Fedorova
Stewart Hunt
Eli & Reese Johnson
Mohammed Altaf Kahn
Shirley Mims
Mitchell & Rosario Parks
Andrew Pitts
Obdulia Siracusa
Southside Lions Club
Steve Talley

CARING FOR THE COASTAL BEND

The Port of Corpus Christi is proud to sponsor
the South Texas Botanical Gardens
& Nature Center.



connect with us: portofcc.com

REPTILE SPONSORS

Riley Belcher
Kelsey Bradshaw
Daniel & Kaysten Ellis
Jason & Manda Ettlinger
Dennis & Linda Goldsberry
Helene Harris
Norm Hendrich
Braque Looper
Lon & Cher Lowrey
Joshua & Jordan Morin
Walta Ocker
Fiona Ruiz
Leo & Nicole Ruiz
Phoebe Ruiz
Andi Shaw
Shannon & Jackie Strickland

PARROT SPONSORS

Nishita Rojani & Nabil Ali
Adam, Lori & Clair Balchik
Zandra Bartlett
Brandon Beauregard
Meredith Cook
Joy Crowley
Alice & Mark Hartlaub
Morgan Knight
& Margaret Hitt
Jacqueline Hunt
Clara, Dale, Clarissa,
& Cameron Trainer
Ryan & Simone Tobin



Thanks to
AEP Texas & H-E-B
for underwriting
50,000 new
Botanical Gardens
rack brochures!



Eagle Scout candidate **Sam Hudson** and team, Troop 3, completed 160' of wood rail fencing in the overflow parking area to help control traffic at large events, and separate parking from visitor areas.

PANDEMIC STATEMENT

Event and class information within is subject to future COVID-19 status and restrictions.

Current protocol:

Six-foot social distancing required, masks required indoors.

Watch
WWW.STXBOT.ORG
for updates.
Thank you.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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
WWW.STXBOT.ORG •  Facebook.com/stxbot •  SouthTexasBotanicalGardens •  So TX Botanical Gdns

UP-CLOSE, PRIVATE ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS NOW AVAILABLE for personal gatherings, fun birthdays, families, unique gifts!

- 1. Squawk, Talk, and Walk:** Walk with our trainers as they do morning feeding, care and introduce you to our parrots! Learn different species, backstories of some of our rescues, cues we use to interact with them, what they eat, who talks, who shouldn't!
- 2. Turtles, Tortoises, Terrapins—Oh, My!** Learn differences, interact with them, feed them guided by our trainers.
- 3. I 'guana' meet Ivan!** Learn about iguanas, and Ivan's unique story. He's a docile kind of guy, who loves to be petted. Take pictures with our star!
- 4. Mingle with the Macaws:** Private meet & greet with two of our favorites. Learn about parrots, their special stories, learn to hold them, take souvenir photos!
- 5. The Slithering Experience:** Private 'Reptile Room' Experience, learning about our snakes, watching a feeding—hold one and we'll take your picture to impress friends with your "bravery."
- 6. Behind the scenes in Reptile Room!** Thinking about a reptile for a pet? Learn about species, hold them, ask about diets, mature size, get some photos!



We can customize your experience with different options, times, and can arrange off-site encounters, as well. Pricing based on number in party, options chosen, on or off-site, but generally range from \$15-60. Some restrictions apply, including COVID-19 protocols. Call 361-852-2100, or email dedrab@stxbot.org, for details.

