

To guarantee a seat, make **RESERVATIONS** at 361-852-2100.

Classes **FREE** with Membership, General Admission, or \$5. (ALL SATURDAY CLASSES begin at 9:30 AM.)

## WINTER LECTURES

Our annual **Winter Lecture Series** returns, Wednesdays, 9:30 am, in Education Station. Learn valuable unique lessons in South Texas environmental horticulture, with a cup of coffee! Free for Members, or Gardens general admission, \$5 others. Reservations required.

- JAN 24:** **Vermicomposting**  
Donna Gonzales, Nueces Master Gardener
- JAN 31:** **Plan Now for Butterfly Gardens**  
Michael Womack, Ed.D. Executive Director
- FEB 7:** **Foliage: Adding Color w/o Flowers**  
Whitney Lance, Landscape Specialist
- FEB 14:** **Favorite Succulents**  
Norma Hernandez, NMG Succulent Team
- FEB 21:** **Fruit Trees for South Texas**  
Renee Brown, Nueces Master Gardener
- FEB 28:** **Improving Soil Health: Testing, Fertilizing**  
Donna Gonzales, Nueces Master Gardener

### February 3: **SPRING PRUNING & CLEAN-UP**

Master Gardener Renee Brown provides a list and timing for spring chores, including post-winter pruning, staking, fertilizing, mulching, and more.

### February 10: **SPRING ROSES 101**

Rose Society Members Gaynell Torgerson & Betty Whitt give practical advice on Selecting & planting new roses & how to prune & fertilize existing rose bushes for best spring bloom.



### February 17: **SPRING VEGGIE PRIMER. Start With A Plan!**

Nueces Master Gardeners Donna Gonzales & Susan Gonzales help novice & experienced gardeners select vegetable varieties, planning & preparing the garden plot to increase production & minimize pest & disease problems.

### February 24: **ADDING CURB APPEAL. Making heads turn.**

Landscape Designer Kathy Hubner, Gill Garden Center & Landscape Co., gives professional insights on transforming a boring landscape into the envy of all the neighbors.

### March 2: **TURF 101: The Grass Is Always Greener.**

Nueces Master Gardener Renee Brown presents best turf options for our area & practical tips on a greener, healthier lawn—mowing, fertilization, disease control.

### March 9: **SHARING FAVORITE PLANTS. Propagation Tips.**

Start more plants to use in your landscape or share with friends, with Nueces Master Gardener & Plant Propagation Specialist Renee Brown.

### March 16: **TREE PRUNING: Love your Trees.**

Why, When, How to prune your trees for shape, strength and longevity, With Certified Arborist John Wood, of Tree Amigos.

### March 30: **TEXAS NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR LANDSCAPE.**

If natives thrive in their natural surroundings, chances are they'll thrive in your landscape; and most likely save on water bills! Texas native plant expert Horticulturist Dr. Michael Womack shows how to feature them in plantings.

## Apr 6: **BIG BLOOM Plant Sale, GARDEN FESTIVAL!**

Annual MEGA-PLANT SALE, 10 am-5 pm, MEMBERS enter at 9 am, hundreds of plant varieties, family eco-activities, \$2 **Community Day** Entrance Fee. Orchid Sale, plumeria, bromeliads, Tropicals, xeriscape. Butterfly and Ladybug releases, Animal Ambassadors, **VENDOR BOOTHS**, food trucks, more. Watch STXBOT.ORG for further details to be announced.

### April 13: **REBLOOMING ORCHIDS**

You buy a blooming orchid, get oohs and aahs, it stops blooming, now what? Orchid Conservatory Curator Jorge Garcia explains how to make sure your orchids bloom again and again.



### April 20: **ADDING SUCCULENTS IN THE LANDSCAPE.**

Types, sizes and colors of succulents (plants with thick fleshy tissues adapted to water storage) are numerous and versatile—in the ground, informal succulent gardens, or decorative containers, you'll be hooked once you know advantages and fun of growing succulents, with Whitney Lance and Norma Hernandez.

## April 24-28: **BIRDIEST FESTIVAL IN AMERICA**

Nationally-known birding and nature photography guide, author and owner of *Avocet Birding Courses*, **Cameron Cox**, will give the keynote address for Birdiest Festival in America April 26! **Find all 21 different Field Trips, fascinating presentations, Bird Walks, Pre-Trip, Post-Trip, entertainment options and REGISTER NOW at [BIRDIESTFESTIVAL.ORG](http://BIRDIESTFESTIVAL.ORG).**



### May 4: **WATER CONSERVATION FOR ANY LANDSCAPE.**

While we're still in water restriction mode, water saver expert JoAnne Salge teaches useful ways to reduce water use in any landscape while still growing healthy attractive plants!

### May 11, 12: **MOTHER'S DAY FREE WEEKEND**

At Visitors Center, all a Mom needs to say is "Show me the Flowers," 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, national magazine subscription, plus 350 **RECIPROCAL GARDENS** in the U.S. ([www.ahsgardening.org/rap](http://www.ahsgardening.org/rap).)

### May 11: **HERB GARDENING.**

Cindy Meredith of The Herb Cottage explains many types of herb gardening in landscapes, gardens, patios or window sills —and culinary uses of many popular herbs.

### May 18: **NEW TRENDS IN LANDSCAPE TROPICALS.**

Executive Director and Horticulturist Michael Womack, reveals the latest ways tropical plant specimens of all sizes creatively are being used in landscapes for a new appealing look.

### May 25: **DRIP IRRIGATION DOING IT YOURSELF!**

Nueces Master Gardeners water conservation specialists Renee Brown and Tom Andrews teach methods, materials and needed tools for a successful easy to operate home drip irrigation system.

## June 15/16: **FATHERS' DAY FREE WEEKEND.**

Just say, "Reptiles & Snakes," & Dad gets in free! Enjoy **REP-TALES**, 10:30; gardens, resident reptiles, Gator Lake, trails, other 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, 350 Reciprocal Gardens!

## July 4: FOURTH- OFF FOR 4TH!

Celebrate AMERICA'S NATURAL BEAUTY at the Botanical Gardens with 25% off admission on Independence Day, a "big bang" for your bucks! Just \$7.50 ages 13-59; \$6 Srs / Active Military / College; \$4.50 ages 3-12. Under 3 & Members free! Bring a picnic; dogs on leash; but NO FIREWORKS allowed!

### ALL SATURDAY MORNING CLASSES

Make RESERVATIONS, 361-852-2100.

Classes FREE with Membership, General Admission, or \$5.

(ALL SATURDAY CLASSES begin at 9:30 AM.)

## July 20: CHOOSING, GROWING, WINTERING PLUMERIA

A week before the big sale, Plumeria Society's Renee Brown will discuss tips on purchasing and raising these exotic, tropical beauties, and lead a tour of the Gardens & Nature Center's impressive Plumeria Garden and Willoughby Viewing Platform.

### *Annual Plumeria Sale!*

Saturday, July 27, 10-1, Gardem Senior Center, 5325 ...  
Cuttings and rooted plants, named and unnamed varieties, will be sold, with proceeds benefitting the Botanical Gardens Plumeria exhibit. Free Admission to Sale.



## September 7: PREPARING FOR FALL GARDENS

Learn tricks of the trade for having a bountiful fall harvest in our difficult Coastal Bend from Nueces Master Gardener Mary Sherwood, giving insights on varieties, fertilizing, care, tips.

## September 14: FALL ROSE GROOMING FOR REBLOOMING

Nueces Master Gardener Renee Brown shares pruning, fertilizing, and pest control techniques to energize your American Beauties for spectacular fall display.

## Sept. 21: KNOW YOUR BUGS!

Learn which bugs are good guys vs. those on public enemy list from Nueces Master Gardener Advanced Entomology Specialist & TDA Certified Applicator for Lawn and Ornamentals, Renee Brown!

## October 4: MOONLIGHT LUAU in the GARDENS

6-9:30 pm. Imagine tiki torches, souvenir lei, live music, delicious luau-inspired food and beverage stations, including island-style signature drink, and other surprises! Release a butterfly, enjoy garden strolls among tropical plumeria, orchids, bromeliads and hibiscus, silent auction and raffle, some parrots, iguanas and convenient valet service for a vibrant moonlit evening. Sponsorships: Call MaryJane or Michael, 361-852-2100, or visit STXBOT.ORG. (see p. 6)

## October 12: FALL LAWN CARE FOR A GREENER SPRING!

Nueces Master Gardener Renee Brown gives best fall fertilizing and cultural practices to help your lawn not only survive winter dormancy, potential disease, but for better growth next spring to make your yard the envy of the neighborhood.

## October 19: BEST TREES FOR SOUTH TEXAS from ARBORIST!

John Wood, Certified Arborist and owner of Tree Amigos, walks you through selecting the best tree for your landscape; and shows you proper planting techniques entering prime Coastal Bend tree planting season.

## October 26: FALL FLOWER POWER!

Learn great perennial and annual plants to jazz up your existing landscape turning heads all season long, from staff Horticulturist and Nueces Master Gardener Carol Krank.

## November 2: MAXIMUM SOUTH TEXAS FRUIT PRODUCTION!

Nueces Master Gardener Renee Brown will not only discuss fruit tree varieties for our area, but also how to properly prune and prevent diseases for masterful harvest in your backyard!

## November 9: SCENTS OF THE HOLIDAYS!

Discover creative uses of fresh and dried herbs during the holidays from staff Horticultural Specialist Whitney Lance. Learn how to brine a turkey with herbs, spice up holiday dishes, making your home a scent-sational holiday retreat.

## November 16: DESERT ROSE 101

Learn all about this popular succulent from local desert rose aficionado and collector Joe Ortiz, who has grown multiple varieties over the years.



## HAY MAZE OPEN October 19<sup>th</sup> - January 1.

Hay Maze now a staple fall attraction for kids, opening Sat, October 19 for Halloween, changing to holidays after. More...



## HOLLY DAYS at the GARDENS

November 29/30 • December 6/7 • 13/14 • 20/21

4 special holiday weekends celebrating joys of the season with a beautiful 20' fresh-cut lighted fir tree & huge 18' recycled ECO CHRISTMAS TREE made of green plastic bottles + 4 smaller ones, created by Shelia Rogers! **FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENINGS, +SATURDAY AFTERNOONS.** Lighting displays, trees, SANTA, more TBA.

# -----ANIMAL AMBASSADORS-----

Visitors Center Reptile Room, Open Daily!



## REP-TALES

Saturdays, Sundays, 10:30 am

Meet, pet, learn about, and often feed several of our Resident Reptiles, with trainers, usually on Festival Lawn area.

# -----YOUTH FIELD TRIP OPTIONS-----



Schools & Youth Groups; Self-Directed & Directed Options.

Visit the Gardens & Nature Center—Learn about Butterflies, Reptiles, Parrots, plants, more!

### A. SELF-DIRECTED FIELD TRIP:

PRE-K through GRADE 5 \$7 / student

GRADES 6 through 12 \$8 / student

Start at Visitor Center with map, PICK destinations!

### B. DIRECTED FIELD TRIP:

PRE-K through GRADE 5 \$10 / student

GRADES 6 through 12 \$12 / student

Choose Gardens & Nature Center areas for students' experience. Staff/volunteers available for Q/A.

### C. DIRECTED FIELD TRIP with CUSTOMIZED SCIENCE LESSON, NATURE CRAFT, BOTH!

PRE-K through GRADE 5 Starts \$14 / student

GRADES 6 through 12 Starts \$16 / student

Minimum Field Trip is 12 students. \$5 Adult Chaperones.

Activities subject to weather, availability.  
Field Trip Descriptions, Questionnaire RESERVATIONS,  
Nature Fun Bag information, [brendae@stxbot.org](mailto:brendae@stxbot.org).



# -----2024 SUMMER CAMPS-----

Half-Day Camps, 9 am-Noon (except Nature Shutterbugs)  
Mon-Fri • \$135 Mbrs, \$160 Others (except Shutterbugs)

Environmental learning experiences for campers include 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 are age-appropriate conducted by Educators, Volunteers & Guest Presenters.

June 3-7	FEATHERS & SCALES	Ages 6-8
June 10-14	TINY CRITTERS	Ages 6-8
June 17-21	NATURE BUDDIES	Ages 6-8
June 24-28	SNAKES & FRIENDS	Ages 9-13
June 24-28	NATURE SHUTTERBUGS	Ages 9-13
	1-4 pm, \$150 all campers	
July 8-12	NATURE BUDDIES	Ages 6-8
July 15-19	GIRL SCOUT ADVENTURE	Ages 5 & up

Minimum 8 campers per session.

PRE-REGISTRATION / PAYMENT at least 7 days before session.  
Scholarships not available.

REGISTRATION FORMS: Call, come by, or [brenda@stxbot.org](mailto:brenda@stxbot.org).  
Registration begins March 1, 2024. 361-852-2100



### OTHER KIDS NATURE EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

Homeschool Series: (ABC Journaling, Science Outdoors)  
Pre-School Nature Awareness (Reading with a Reptile. . .)  
Scout Nature Adventure Patches

# -----MINI ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS-----

Fun interactions with 3 Animal Ambassadors! Guests hold animals, gives them snacks, take photos in a private setting!

Up to 6 people 15 minutes \$40 (plus gen admission)

Additional people or animals can be arranged if scheduled in advance, additional fees apply.

- Price is for groups, plus Gardens admissions per person.
- \$5 package discount for Gardens members.
- Limited spots available each day.
- Hands/arms clean, free of repellants, sunscreens.

Scheduling, questions: 361-852-2100

