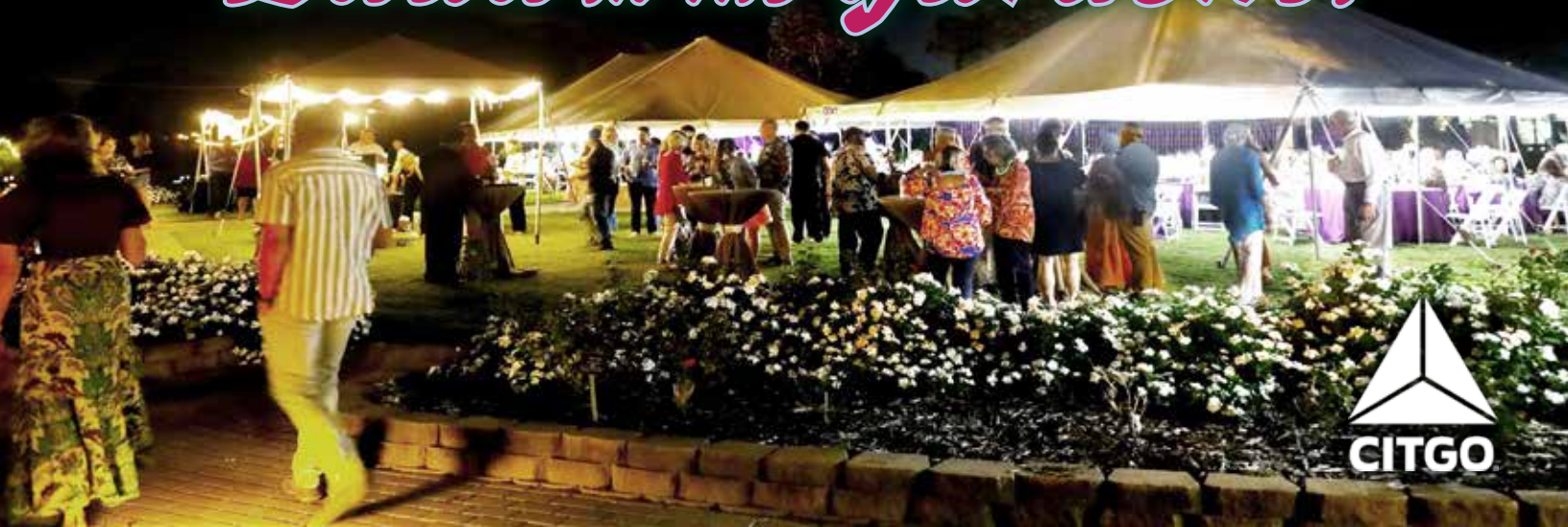


Moonlight *Luau in the Gardens!*



ALOHA! Get Ready to Luau.

Our 16th annual signature fundraiser, **Moonlight LUAU in the GARDENS**, is a casual "Grass Skirt Optional" event, **6-9:30 pm, Friday, October 4**, at the Botanical Gardens. Get your leis and flashlights, signature Botanical Beer and Blue Hawaiians to sip your way through tiki torches, orchids, bromeliads, plumeria, Butterfly House and Silent Auction.

Then, savor nine luau-inspired food stations, taste Roast Pig, at lush dining tables with tropical flowers, foliage and pineapples!

Dance to "Aloha Dave & the Tourists," hula with the Pacific Islanders Polynesian Dancers. Greet our tropical creatures before saying *Mahalo Nui Loa!*

Hurry, grab your sponsorship, or single admissions online at STXBOT.ORG, (QR Code below,) or 361-852-2100. Reservations required, by October 1, no walk-ins. (Since alcohol is served at this after-dark event, guests must be at least age 18.) **Let's Luau!**

FALL 2024 NEWS MAGAZINE





COMMITTEE

- Jodie Alley
- Joe Alley
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- Joyce Barnette
- Alan Belcher
- Bruce Benedict
- Brenda Bishop
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Kitty Hommer
Event Chair

**PLUS
BOTANICAL GARDENS
STAFF**

**Proud to be
An Energy Star
Certified Facility**

MOONLIGHT in the GARDENS 2024

CITGO Corpus Christi Refinery

PRESENTING SPONSOR



\$10,000 SPONSORS

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\$5000 SPONSORS

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Helping Here



\$1000 SPONSORS

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Sherriff J.C. Hooper



HOLLY-Days at the GARDENS

Four weekends of festive holiday trees, lights, hayrides, animals, SANTA!



FRIDAYS: 6-7:30 pm

TREES & LIGHTS	
Cut-Out Photo Ops	
PHOTOS with SANTA	Rose Pavilion
Holiday PHOTOS with Animals	Tent
HAYRIDES	Tent
S'mores & Cocoa \$5	Fire Pit
Reptile Room Open	Visitors Center



SATURDAYS: 2-7:30 pm

TREES & LIGHTS	2-7:30	
Holiday Cut-Out Photo Ops	2-7:30	
Hay Maze	2-7:30	Treehouse
PHOTOS with SANTA	2-4, 6-7:30	Rose Pavilion
KIDS CRAFTS	2-4	
PHOTOS with Animals	2-4, 6-7:30	Tent
HAYRIDES	2-4, 6-7:30	Tent
S'mores & Cocoa \$5	6-7:30	Fire Pit



Nov 29/30 • Dec 6/7 • 13/14 • 20/21



HOLLY-Days,

the magical celebration of holiday excitement, returns with the giant fresh-cut, lighted fir tree, donated by Joyce Barnette; artist Shelia Rogers "Emerald Forest" of trees made of recycled green plastic bottles; along with SANTA, hayrides, light displays and themed trees within exhibits!

Presented by **Valero**, the photo ops, Santa visits and S'mores & Cocoa leaves family and friends with lasting memories of this year's holiday celebrations.

We need your help adding to our "RECYCLED CHRISTMAS" EXHIBIT. Do you have any of these things you aren't using anymore to donate to Holly-Days?

Holly-Days Request List

If you don't need these now, we do!

6-7 artificial outdoor Christmas trees

Greenery wreathes, garlands

9 bicycle rims, any size

Used paint brushes

Wood banister posts

Pine cones, Jumbo acorns

36 2-liter green plastic bottles

Wrapping ribbon and bows

LED lights

Light Timers, Multi-plugs

361-852-2100



BIRDIEST FESTIVAL IN AMERICA!

announces 2025 Keynote speaker!



Kevin Karlson, an accomplished birder, author, professional tour leader, wildlife photographer and instructor, is a regular at bird and nature festivals in North America, for keynote presentations, bird identification and



Kevin K. Karlson

photography workshops. At Corpus Christi's eighth birding festival, April 23-27, Kevin will present, *"Through the Looking Glass: Reflections of a Grateful Birder."*

This light-hearted presentation examines birdwatching through Kevin's eyes exploring why so many humans enjoy watching and studying birds; and the unique camaraderie fellow birders naturally form. He'll share photos of birds, people and other creatures from many locations, as well as humorous stories that make the hobby life-long. He has authored several guide and photography books, and laminated fold-out guides.

Forty-five years of casual to passionate birding has shaped Kevin's life multiple ways, much of it revolving around study and enjoyment of birds and appreciation for the journey. Come along for a trek through time to which we all can relate, with birds, people and unique locals. He has cut back on many bird-related activities, so Karlson's Keynote speech Friday evening, April 25, is a special one.

REGISTRATION OPENS AT BIRDIESTFESTIVAL.ORG DECEMBER 1.

"Haunted Trail" is October 18, 19—the scary side of the Nature Trail!



Online ticket sale has begun for "Halloween Trail," October 18 and 19. Be led down the treelined trail, through ravines, where no one knows who or what might jump out to brush your leg! Find out what happens on the trail by night. But don't worry, you won't be alone. Gardens staff—the ones who take care of the snakes—will be guiding you. You'll walk slowly down the trail, then hayride back, followed by light refreshments—in the Reptile Room! Get your \$20 tickets online only, at STXBOT.ORG. Last year was a sell-out! Funds raised help take care of our Animal Ambassadors.



HAY MAZE returns for fourth year, opening October 19 through January 1, sponsored by Ocean Drive Garden Club and South Texas Botanical Gardens!

One hundred fifty bales of fresh hay soon will arrive to build the fourth *HayMazing* adventure with partner Ocean Drive Garden Club. Opening October 19 dressed for Halloween, the maze will evolve to holiday décor in time for Holly Days at the Gardens, and close January 1.

Youngsters' sense of direction is challenged by the maze, only one bale high so parents easily can monitor activity. Lots of seasonal photo ops await.

This hay-mazing adventure is included in daily general admission. Holiday closures are Thanksgiving Day, December 24, 25.



Board of Directors' *Strategic Plan Committee* leads progress through next few years of immediate projects, orderly Master Plan development

Board President Callie Walker has appointed Dr. Robert Furgason, Gloria Hicks, Joe Schenk, Patty Nuss, Bob Paulison, Kitty Walker and Mel Powell to join her on the **Strategic Plan Committee**, with Executive Director Michael Womack and Marketing Director MaryJane Crull, staff advisors.

This group has identified immediate projects creating new exhibits or other Gardens additions including:

- ▶ Expediently adding the new rear gate entrance and fence extensions, plus security fencing along new S. Oso Parkway in front of the Education and Administration facilities, all matching bronze aluminum fencing of the current front gate—an emergency exit once the new gate is ready. New entrance signage at Staples and S. Oso Parkway and the new gate will accompany this change.
- ▶ Gathering estimates to build the third conservatory in front of the Samuel Jones Orchid structures.
- ▶ Selecting a local architect for future Visitors Center design. Letters of interest, references were requested.
- ▶ Drafting a detailed Strategic Plan for the next three to five years covering mission, funding, growth, organization and governance aligning with the Master Plan, a capital campaign and visitor expectations.



Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Art Department Sculpture Class exhibits wildlife metal sculpture projects at Botanical Gardens October, November!

As many as 15 pieces of creative native wildlife sculptures using rebar, rebar-tie wire and welding, such as a *Sleeping Deer* and *Blue Heron*, should be on display in time for Moonlight LUAU in the GARDENS, October 4, remaining at least through mid-November for visitors. Ian Manseau, graduate instructor at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Art Department, made the assignment for his fall semester Sculpture I students.

The exhibit previews at the fundraiser, with an **artist reception / exhibit opening 6-7:30 pm, Friday, October 11**, for Botanical Gardens members and artists' guests. Sculptures will be displayed along the walkway between the Hummingbird Garden and Tortoise Enclosures.



Botanical Gardens members, artists' guests and University officials are invited to the **EXHIBIT OPENING, 6-7:30 pm, Friday, October 11**, at the Gardens. Light Refreshments.



Corpus Christi Water **Conservation**

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

For water-saving tips, visit
www.cctexas.com/consERVE

- ✓ 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** 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	\$ 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

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STREET ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

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ACCT #

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EXPIRATION 3 DIGIT SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE

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

Parrots Happy to see guests again!

It was a bang-up Fourth of July for our parrots which began rotating from their indoor Parrot Hut hideaway, where they were protected from Avian Flu during spring migration for wild birds, to their normal outdoor enclosures along the Bromeliad Conservatory walkway!

Since we are an animal sanctuary for rescued parrots, we complied with USDA's Animal Welfare Act regulations, which require a staff member to be outside near the enclosures when birds are there. The enclosures were retrofitted with added safety features to avoid cross-contamination.

Parrots are outside for visitors mornings, 9-12 daily. At noon, the outdoor parrots take turns in the Reptile Room until closing. On bad weather days, one bird will be in the Reptile Room for visitors.

Parrots again can be included in Private Encounters upon request. Reservations are made at 361-852-2100.



Recycle Right **SOLID WASTE SERVICES**

- PAPER**
Mail, notebook paper, magazines
Empty, flattened cardboard
- Cans**
Empty aluminum cans, steel cans
- PLASTIC**
Empty plastic bottles & containers
with numbers 1, 2, 5

*Plastic bags of any kind should not be placed in your recycling cart.

Know what to throw by downloading the CC Recycle app today!

www.cctexas.com/howtorecycle

[ccwasteplace](https://www.facebook.com/ccwasteplace)



October 4: MOONLIGHT LUAU in the GARDENS
6-9:30 pm. Imagine tiki torches, souvenir leis, delicious luauinspired food and beverage stations, including island-style signature drinks, live entertainment by *Aloha Dave & the Tourists*, and *Pacific Islanders Polynesian Dancers*. Release a butterfly, enjoy garden strolls among tropical plumeria, orchids, bromeliads, silent auction and raffle, some parrots, iguanas and convenient valet service for a vibrant moonlit evening. Presented by CITGO! Sponsorships vary in price: individual admissions \$150 mbrs, \$175 others. On- Line at STXBOT.ORG, or 361-852-2100. (see pp 1-3)

October 11: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Art Department
"Wildlife Metal Sculpture Preview Reception, Sculpture I Fall Semester Class, 6-7:30 pm. See students' creative visions of area wildlife constructed with rebar, rebar wire and welding. Meet the artists! Botanical Gardens members invited. (see p 7)

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)

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 an 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 19th - January 1.

Hay Maze now a staple fall attraction for kids, opening Sat, October 19 for Halloween, changing to holiday theme after. Sponsored by Ocean Drive Garden Club & Botanical Gardens. Maze is only one bale high so parents can monitor kids. Open 9-6 daily, except Thanksgiving Day, December 24, 25. (see p 6)



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, hayrides, photo ops, S'mores & Cocoa. General Admission, members Free! Presented by Valero. (See pp 4,5)



WINTER LECTURES, 9:30 am, Wednesdays

- Jan 22** Plant Diseases & Pathogens
Renee Brown, Nueces Master Gardener
- Jan 29** Getting Started with Birding
Libby Even, *Birdiest Festival* Coordinator
- Fab 5** Top Tropicals for your Landscape
Dr. Michael Womack, Exec. Director, Horticulturist
- Feb 12** Roses: Varieties, Care & Pruning
Renee Brown, Nueces Master Gardener
- Feb 19** Vermiculture & Composting
Donna Gonzales, Nueces Master Gardener
- Feb 26** Super Succulents & Cool Containers
Whitney Lance, STBGNC Landscape Specialist

February 1: CULTIVATING TINY TREES

Learn bonsai basics from tools, containers, equipment and techniques from Nueces Master Gardener Tom Andrews and the Corpus Christi Bonsai Club, and transform a tiny tree into a living work of art.

February 8: HOYAS, HOYAS, HOYAS!

Coastal Bend hoya and plumeria aficionado Lalita Barlow shows you the wide diversity and best care practices for these unusual “wax plants” that most everyone can grow.

February 15: ABCs of Spring Vegetable Gardening

Nueces Master Gardeners Susan Gonzales and Donna Gonzales share secrets they’ve learned in years of gardening on best varieties, planting methods, and heading off potential problems to maximize harvest.

February 22: Fruit Trees for South Texas

Transform your backyard into a personal orchard as you grow your own produce. Learn best varieties, planting, fertilizing techniques for South Texas.

March 1: TERRARIUMS

Nueces Master Gardener Beth Spirko shows how to create tiny ecosystems as her demonstration explains techniques, containers, which plants and decorations work best.

March 8: DIY Rainwater Harvesting

Discover it’s easy to set up your rainwater collection system from Nueces Master Gardener Cindy Funke as she explains equipment, techniques from her successes and challenges in collecting precipitation to water her garden!

ANIMAL AMBASSADORS

Visitors Center **Reptile Room, Tortoise Pens, Iguana Houses**
OPEN DAILY!



PARROTS are outdoors along Bromeliad Conservatory walkway, 9 am-noon, daily, weather permitting.

Also meet a parrot in Reptile Room afternoons until closing.

"REP-TALES" PRESENTATIONS
10:30 am, Saturdays, Sundays

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

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



Call 361-852-2100 for Reservations.

YOUTH FIELD TRIPS 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 \$8 / student
GRADES 6 through 12 \$9 / student
Start at Visitor Center with map, PICK destinations!

B. DIRECTED FIELD TRIP:

PRE-K through GRADE 5 \$12 / student
GRADES 6 through 12 \$14 / 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, or BOTH!

PRE-K through GRADE 5 Starts \$15 / student
GRADES 6 through 12 Starts \$17 / student

B. NEW OPTION: Mega Magnifier & Mini Microscopes
With Butterflies, inside Education Station, kids use 5' tall Mega Magnifier & Mini Scopes to observe 100-plus Museum quality collection of once-living butterflies, with Characteristics, Q/A guided interaction.

C. NEW OPTIONS: Water Wonders for Pre-K, Kinder; 16' River/real water model. Water Wonders & more, 1st-5th; Mini-boats, pollution, re-use.

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

Activities subject to weather, availability.
**Field Trip Descriptions, Questionnaire RESERVATIONS,
Nature Fun Bag information,
email brendae@stxbot.org.**

MORE KIDS' EDUCATION

- 1. YEAR-ROUND CAMPS:** Ages 6-8, 9-13.
9 am-Noon, Mon-Fri. When you have a group of at least 8 campers, maybe on school breaks, we'll schedule your choice of topics—on your schedule.
- 2. HOME SCHOOL PROGRAM SERIES:** Ages 4-6, 7-11.
Minimum 6 students, Max 10. Request your date, time for Nature Journaling, ages 4-6; or Science Outdoors, ages 7-11. (45 minute sessions)
- 3. PRE-SCHOOL NATURE AWARENESS:**
Minimum 6 children, Max 10. Request your date, time.
Reading with a Reptile, Kids & Critters, Animal Action.

Contact: Brendae@stxbot.org for fees and dates.

GRANTS & DONATIONS

Eugene Bouligny
Ruth Camp
Coastal Bend Community Foundation
Coco Cabana Acai & Smoothie Co.
H-E-B
Jane & James Ross

MOONLIGHT SPONSORS, *see p 3*

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Athenian Club
Audubon Outdoor Club of
Corpus Christi
Coastal Bend Audubon Society
Driftwood Garden Club
Island Gardeners
Native Plant Society of South Texas
Nueces Master Gardeners
Padre Island Garden Club
Plumeria Society of South Texas
Port Aransas Garden Club
Texas Master Naturalists South Texas

NEW PREMIUM LEVEL MEMBERS

BENEFACTOR: Amanda & Ken Kellar

SUPPORTING: Laura Berry
Samantha & Jake Brandt
Vanessa & Fred Braselton
Becky & Allen Johnson
Carolyn & Lorenzo Martin
Jim Schucharot
Caroline Szepessy

SUSTAINING: Tony Clements
Paula & Billy Edwards
Noreen & John Hammerick
Connie & Arve Holt
Becky & Mike Johnson
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Rita & Thomas Molina
Rebecca James, Sunny Moore
Kathy & David Skurow
Kaitlyn & Kenneth Slimp
Whitney & Zach Witten
Amanda & Luke Zitzman
Oralia & Patrick Zych

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\$2000 CITGO
\$1000 Valero
\$ 500 Branded by Web Design
Gill Landscape Nursery
MDR Advertising
\$ 250 Aquaria Services

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Joshua Auzenne Photography
Kathy Garcia Photography
Crystal Lail Photography

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KLUX FM
KIII TV 3
THE BEND Magazine
Visit Corpus Christi

NEWLY SPONSORED ANIMALS

Ren Almanza
NOODLE Western Hognose

Adel Casiano
RIO Blue Gold Macaw

Coastal Health Solutions
LAVENDAR Ball Python

Eddie & Ryan Corrigan
MANNY Mexican Milk Snake

Manda & Jason Ettlinger
BANDIT Checkered Garter Snake

Evie & Lucas Kaster
TWEEDLE Musk Turtle

Keya & Roohi Murthy
SHELDON 3-Toed Box Turtle

Teva Shepard
BAMBI Leopard Gecko

Ryan & Simone Tobin
AJ & CHILI Green Cheeked Conures
Tyler & Richardson Texas Tortoises

Haley & Jim Vera
CHILE Chilean Rose Hair
Tarantula

Susan Wader
PEACHES Citron Cockatoo

Coty & Rebecca
FLAKES Red Corn Snake



Dr. Claudia Torres, DVM,
a veterinarian practicing in
Eagle Pass and Uvalde, asked us
to take in this handsome
Bearded Dragon named SPROCKET.

Visit our newest rescue
in the Reptile Room!

**MOONLIGHT LUAU
in the GARDENS**
October 4
(pp 1-3)



HAY MAZE
October 19-January 1
(p 6)



**HOLLY DAYS
at the GARDENS**
4 Holiday Weekends
(pp 4-5)



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 ■ LinkedIn

HELLO TO FALL ORCHID BLOOMS; PLUMERA HEAD TO HIBERNATION SOON

We humans may have been too hot this summer, but plumeria loved it! But only about one more month until the Plumeria Society of South Texas strips leaves, cuts them back, and puts them to bed in their **heated winter greenhouse**, generally early November (*Watch Facebook, Instagram*). Plumeria are subject to damage under 40 degrees unless in a sheltered spot. Hard freezes often kill them. Get your last plumeria fix before October ends!



But nature cheers you up since fall is one of two prime bloom seasons for our amazing and numerous orchid collection in the Samuel Jones Orchid Conservatory. Look forward to Cattleya, Dendrobium and others in bloom this fall. That said, last winter, the orchids didn't want to quit and flowered nearly right into the spring bloom.

