

2015 HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS: EVENTS & EDUCATION

Upcoming Events & Education at the SOUTH TEXAS BOTANICAL GARDENS & NATURE CENTER

8545 S. Staples St., Corpus Christi TX 78413 361.852.2100 www.stxbot.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

BIG BLOOM *Plant Sale!*

Saturday, April 4, 9am-5pm DOLLAR DAY! (Members Early Entry 8-9 am)

Our spring garden festival and only Plant Sale of the year! Kids activities, Orchid Sale, specialty vendors, butterfly release in the Butterfly House, ladybug releases, reptile shows and more . . . plant experts on site. *NEW* with Texas Master Naturalists—nature trail 'walk and talk' tours, kids 'touch & learn' tables in EcoFun Tent, and birding scopes on Wetlands Boardwalk. Buy a *NEW* membership at 10% off; get discounts on plants and Nature's Boutique purchases. FLORA, FAUNA, affordable FAMILY FUN!

SOUTH TEXAS BOTANICAL GARDENS ORCHID SHOW

Saturday/Sunday, April 18/19, 9 am-6 pm; Education Station Meeting Room

See beautiful blooming specimen plants from the Coastal Bend's orchid aficionados' private collections and locals that just love to grow these fascinating tropicals. Plants and other orchid products will be available from vendors. *Anyone may exhibit plants. No exhibition fees.* Entries must be submitted on Friday, April 17, 9-6, at Botanical Gardens Education Station. . FREE ADMISSION TO ORCHID SHOW in Education Station (General Admission applies to visit rest of Botanical Gardens). FMI: Sam Jones, Orchid Curator, 361-290-7429.

WORLD OF WATER presented by City of Corpus Christi Utilities and Water Resources

Saturday, April 25, 9 am-2 pm.

Enjoy water-related science displays, water conservation and environmental issues, hands-on experiments and other fun activities provided by City of Corpus Christi water professionals and local environmental groups in a relaxing outdoor atmosphere. Free Admission during this event, courtesy of City of Corpus Christi. General admission applies after 2 pm.

NATIONAL PUBLIC GARDENS DAY / MOTHERS DAY FREE WEEKEND !

MOMS GET IN FREE! Friday, Saturday, Sunday, May 8-10.

Celebrate **National Public Gardens Day** with us and the **American Public Gardens Association**, on **Mothers' Day Weekend!** 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, Turner's Gardenland and other discounts, **plus 200+ U.S. Reciprocal Gardens!**

FATHERS' DAY FREE WEEKEND

Saturday & Sunday, June 20 & 21

Just say, "**It's Fathers' Day,**" and Dad gets in free Saturday & Sunday of Fathers' Day weekend!

Take a walk with Dad, enjoy the birds, gardens, resident reptiles, Gator Lake, trails and other guy stuff! Sorry only dads are free—all other non-members pays general admission!

MOONLIGHT IN THE GARDENS 2015

Friday evening, October 30. Botanical Gardens signature fundraiser. Astronomical Appetizers, Stellar Spirits, Best Steak on the Planet, Saturn's Sweets (chef on site), with entertainment including Jupiter's Jazz Bar, Starlight Silent Auction & Grand Galaxy blackboard auction, Heavenly Butterfly Release, Lunar Illuminations, music and dancing with *Flashback!* Information on underwriting, sponsorship, tickets. 361.852.2100

BOTANICAL GARDENS 'BUCK' DAY!

Saturday, November 7, 9 am to 6 pm.

Before the Plumeria are tucked away for winter, while tropicals are in top form, while butterflies are in abundance, everyone can visit the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center--enjoying the FLORA, FAUNA AND FUN--for just \$1 per person! See the Rose Garden, Orchid Collection, Bromeliad Conservatory, 'artful' Sensory Garden . . . meet Resident Reptiles and exotic parrots, enjoy a butterfly release in the Butterfly House, explore trails and wetlands, shop new *Nature's Boutique*.

Joan Batman Nature's Boutique **HOLIDAY SALE for MEMBERS!**

Saturday, November 14-Thursday, December 31

All your favorites, and generous selection of new merchandise and books—all 20% off for members. Beat Black Friday, avoid Holiday shopping crowds, find unique merchandise in relaxed, intimate setting with reasonable prices! NOT A MEMBER???? Purchase your membership before you shop. GIFT MEMBERSHIPS make great gifts to enjoy all year. **Open daily 9am to 6pm, except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day.**

BLACKLOCK'S WINTER FINCH / SPARROW ID & NATURAL HISTORY Short Course

Class Session: Friday, January 23, 6:15-9:15 pm; and **Field Trip:** Saturday, January 24, 7am-1pm.

Award-winning & entertaining birder/naturalist Gene Blacklock says there is no other place in North America with such exciting diversity of these creatures than South Texas. Course is designed for beginners and/or those with a special interest in the skill of field identification and natural history of winter finches and sparrows, including seasonality and preferred habitats. Class session held at *Education Station* at South Texas Botanical Garden & Nature Center. **\$45 each members, \$60 non-members** including Gardens general admission. Class maximum 20 students, minimum 12. **Prepaid registration required by January 20, 361.852.2100.** Curriculum questions 361.558.1829.

BLACKLOCK'S INTRO TO EXCITING WORLD OF BIRDS Short Course

Class Session: Friday, February 6, 6:15-9:15 pm; **Fieldtrip:** Saturday, February 7, 7 am-1 pm.

A short course and basic introduction designed especially for beginning birders with little or no experience in the sport of birding. Study some of the more than 450 known bird species in South Texas, with acclaimed birder and naturalist **Gene Blacklock**. Class session held in Education Station at South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, a **Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail** site. **\$45 each members; \$60 non-members.** Class maximum 20, minimum 12. **Prepaid registration required by February 3, 361.852.2100.** Curriculum questions 361.558.1829.

BLACKLOCK'S ADVANCED BIRD ID & NATURAL HISTORY 'GRAD SCHOOL'—10 CLASSES, 3 FIELD TRIPS

Begins Monday, February 9, running through May 2.

Classes: Mondays, 6:30-9:15 pm; Feb 9, 16, 23; Mar 2, 9, 16, 23; Apr 13, 20, 27.

Field Trips: Saturdays, March 28, April 18, May 2.

Gene Blacklock—author, former environmental educator and field biologist—explores seasonality, migration highlights, preferred habitats and specific identification marks; plus discussion/review of species associated with Biotic Provinces of Texas. Course is designed for adults with some years of field experience; or a beginners' long series introduction to captivating sport of bird ID. Class sessions held in Education Station at South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, a **Great Texas Coastal Bend Birding Trail** site. **\$200 members, \$235 non-members**, including all Gardens general admissions. (Non-member tuition includes a one-year Botanical Gardens individual membership.) Class maximum is 20, minimum 12. **Prepaid registration required by February 6, 361.852.2100.** Curriculum questions, 361.558.1829.

BLACKLOCK'S BEGINNING WILDFLOWER ID & NATURAL HISTORY Short Course

Class Session: Friday, March 6, 6:15-9:15 p.m.

Fieldtrip: Saturday, March 7, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Award-winning naturalist Gene Blacklock leads this practical, hands-on class and field trip for beginners identifying and studying native Texas wildflowers in Coastal Bend 'hot spots.' Participants encouraged to photograph, collect, store, press, preserve specimens. Class session held in Education Station at South Texas Botanical Gardens, a **Great Texas Coastal Bend Birding Trail** site. **\$45 members, \$60 non-members, Prepaid registration required by March 3, 361-852-2100.** Curriculum questions, 361.558-1829.

BLACKLOCK'S LANDSCAPING FOR BIRDS & BUTTERFLIES Short Course

Class Session: Friday, April 10, 6:15-9:15 pm; **Field Trip to local nursery:** Saturday, April 11, 8:30 am -1:30 pm.

Requested by Botanical Gardens members, this course covers desirable drought-tolerant, hardy attractor plants, managing ways to secure future for native plants and animals, water conservation, storm water runoff. **Course fee is \$45 members, \$60 non-members.** Class maximum 20, minimum 12. **Prepaid registration required by April 7, 361.852.2100.** Curriculum questions, 361.558.1829.

BLACKLOCK'S SHORE BIRD IDENTIFICATION, ALTERNATE PLUMAGE Short Course

Lecture: Friday, May 15, 6:15-9:15 pm; **Field Trip:** Saturday, May 16, 7 am-1 pm.

Gene Blacklock leads this weekend course for all levels of birders, studying Coastal Bend shorebirds, life histories, migration timelines, summer breeding plumage. Students should bring binoculars. Course fee is **\$45 members, \$60 non-members.** Class maximum 20, minimum 12.

Prepaid registration required by May 11, 361.852.2100. Curriculum questions 361.558.1829.

BLACKLOCK'S INTRO TO EXCITING WORLD OF BIRDS Short Course

Class Session: Friday, September 11, 6:15-9:15 pm; **Fieldtrip:** Saturday, September 12, 7 am-1 pm.

A short course and basic introduction designed especially for beginning birders with little or no experience in the sport of birding. Study some of the more than 450 known bird species in South Texas, with acclaimed birder and naturalist **Gene Blacklock**. Class session held in Education Station at South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, a **Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail** site. **\$45 each members; \$60 non-members.** Class maximum 20, minimum 12. **Prepaid registration required by September 8, 361.852.2100.** Curriculum questions 361.558.1829.

BLACKLOCK'S BEGINNING BIRD ID 101 SERIES—10 CLASSES & 3 FIELD TRIPS

Begins Monday, September 21, running through December 5

Classes: Mondays, 6:15-9:15 pm; Sept 21, Sept 28, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26; Nov 2, 9, 16; Nov 30.

Field Trips: Saturdays, Oct 17, Nov 14, Dec 5.

With award-winning & entertaining birder/naturalist, Gene Blacklock, co-author of *Birds of Texas—a Field Guide & Birds of the Texas Coastal Bend*; former environmental educator for *Welder Wildlife Foundation*; *Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program*; and *Texas Parks & Wildlife* field biologist in colonial water bird management. This series is designed for people who wish to know more about bird identification but have little or no experience in the sport of field identification. Class sessions held in Botanical Gardens new Education Station. The Botanical Gardens & Nature Center is a **Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail** site. Class maximum is 18, minimum 12. **\$200 members, \$235 non-members**, including all Botanical Gardens general admissions. (Non-member fee includes one-year Botanical Gardens individual membership.)

Prepaid registration required by September 18, 361.852.2100. Curriculum questions 361.558.1829.

Class: Friday, September 25, 6:15-9:15pm; Field Trip: Saturday, September 26, 9:30am-1pm

Just in time for fall migration and Corpus Christi *Hawk Watch*, local naturalist Gene Blacklock discusses the common 'birds of prey' in an evening class; and leads a Saturday field trip. Class session held in Botanical Gardens Education Station. **\$45 members; \$60 non-members.**

Class maximum 30, minimum 12. **Prepaid registration required by September 19, 361.852.2100.** Curriculum questions 361.558.1829.

**NEW—Travel & Learn! BIOTIC PROVINCE SAFARIES, with educator/naturalist Gene Blacklock;
Co-sponsored by the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center.**

Scientists recognize **seven major biological regions within Texas**: NAVAHONIAN (Guadalupe Mountains); CHIHUAHUAN (Trans-Pecos); KANSAN (Panhandle); BALCONIAN (Hill Country); TEXAN (North Central); AUSTRORIPARIAN (Piney Woods); TAMAULIPAN (South Texas)—all equally exciting and interesting! Exploring these areas provides unique opportunities to see some of the most fascinating and beautiful flora and fauna regions within the United States; as well as some of the most attractive birds of North America. Special emphasis will be finding and seeing all birds (1) specifically endemic to each of these regions; (2) in the appropriate season to see them; (3) with a time line to maximize optimum opportunities to see the greatest species diversity.

FIVE CLASSES/EXTENDED FIELD TRIPS featuring FIVE MAJOR BIOLOGICAL REGIONS OF TEXAS!

Balconian--2015. Kansan & Chihuahuan--2016. Austroriparian & Tamaulipan--2017.

[TRIPS PRICED SEPARATELY. Participants need not take all safaris.]

[TRIP A] BALCONIAN REGION STUDY (Texas Hill Country)

Class—Friday, April 17, 6:15-9:15 pm, Botanical Gardens Education Station.

Field Trip: April 21-23. Begins at Motel 6, in Junction, 2 pm, April 21—exploring area of South Llano State Park.

Participants must provide own transportation, food and drinks, birding equipment, personal items, accommodations—carpooling encouraged.

Field trip will end at approximately 2 pm, April 23, Lost Maples State Park. **\$375 each members; \$410.00 non-members.** (Non-member cost includes one-year Botanical Gardens single membership.) Max 12, min 8. **PREPAID REGISTRATION required by March 1, 361.852.2100.**

QUESTIONS: Gene Blacklock, 361.558.1829.

[TRIP B] KANSAN REGION STUDY, (Palo Dura and Cap Rock State Parks, Buffalo National Wildlife Refuge)

Class—Friday, January 22, 2016, 6:15-9:15 pm, Botanical Gardens Education Station.

Field Trip—January 25-30. Highlights Nearctic arctic birds wintering in Texas.

Participants must provide own transportation, food and drinks, birding equipment, personal items, accommodations—carpooling encouraged. Other details/costs TBA. Max 10, min 6. **PREPAID REGISTRATION required by December 1, 361.852.2100.** **QUESTIONS: Gene Blacklock, 361.558-1829.**

[TRIP C] CHIHUAHUAN/MEXICAN NAVAHONIAN REGION STUDY

Class—Friday, April 15, 2016, 6:15-9:15 pm, Botanical Gardens Education Station. **Field Trip—April 18-23.**

[TRIP D] TAMAULIPAN REGION STUDY, (Rio Grande Valley and Laredo)

Class—Friday, January 21, 2017, 6:15-9:15 pm, Botanical Gardens Education Station. **Field Trip - January 24-27.**

[TRIP E] AUSTRORIPARIAN REGION STUDY, Big Thicket

Class—Friday, April 13, 2017, 6:15-9:15 pm, Botanical Gardens Education Station. **Field Trip—April 16-20.**

[Unless otherwise noted, participants are responsible for their own transportation, meals, drinks, field supplies, out-of-pocket expenses. South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, or Gene Blacklock, are not liable for any injuries, medical expenses or damages occurred during classes or fieldtrips.]

OTHER ADULT CLASSES (FREE for members, unless otherwise noted!)

ORCHIDOLOGY

1st Thursday of the month, 7 pm

On-going Orchid *chat-and-learn* monthly class series, for novice to experienced growers, with Orchid Curator Sam Jones, in the Education Station classroom. Monthly topics range from different orchid genera to specific orchid culture techniques. Classes FREE! Orchids for sale at most meetings. For information, call 361-854-7624.

WINTER LECTURE SERIES

From 10 to 11:30 a.m., Wednesdays, January 7 through February 25

A variety of unique nature and horticultural topics which define and explain our unique South Texas Environment. For Winter Texans, other travelers and Coastal Bend residents. MEMBERS FREE! Non-members *free* with General Admission.

Jan 7 Container Gardens / Downsizing Solutions – Carol Krank, staff Horticulturist

Jan 14 Citrus Greening, Expanding Disease Threat in Texas – Kalina Tostado, Texas Dept. of Agriculture

Jan 21 Scent-sational Plants – Dr. Michael Womack, STBGNC Executive Director & Horticulturist

Jan 28 Cultivating Cactus – J.T. Garcia, Texas Cactus Council

Feb 4 Animal Rehabilitation at Texas Sealife Center – Dr. Tim Tristan, Director & Veterinarian

Feb 11 Peppers, Peppers, Peppers! – Charles DeHart, Chef “Hellbilly”

Feb 18 Legends & Lore of Texas Wildflowers – Betty Whitt, Nueces Master Gardener

Feb 25 Ranch Hand Cooking – Karen Howden, Nueces County Historical Society

WATER GARDENING: GETTING READY FOR SPRING

Saturday, February 7, 10-noon.

Denise Housler of Aquaria Services helps people understand the chores and maintenance needed for water gardens before the busy spring season, and gives suggestions for beginners thinking about adding a water feature to their landscape. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

ROSE PRUNING WORKSHOP!

Saturday, February 21, 10-noon.

Corpus Christi Rose Society members present a South Texas rose-growing lecture and workshop followed by hands-on pruning and planting demos. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

GARDENING FOR THE BIRDS

Saturday, February 28, 10-noon.

Pat Botkin and Karen Smith, Nueces Master Gardeners and Audubon Outdoor Club members, share their secrets about the best plants to attract migrating birds, and other tips to bring in feathered friends to your yard. MEMBERS FREE! Non-members *free* with General Admission.

MINIATURE FAIRY GARDENS!

Saturday, March 14, 10-noon.

STBGNC Horticulturist talks about containers and accessories to create your own miniature container garden, perfect for fairies, gnomes and other tiny garden guests. Materials available to purchase separately for a hands-on workshop following lecture. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

ATTRACT BUTTERFLIES TO YOUR GARDEN

Saturday, March 21, 10-noon.

Learn the necessary components of a Butterfly Garden from Brenda Dziedzic, author of *Learn about Butterflies in the Garden*. Want Monarchs, Giant Swallowtails, or Cloudless Sulphurs in your landscape? Choose the butterflies you would like to see and learn the right plants to ensure they come to your yard. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

HERBS FROM GARDEN TO TABLE

Saturday, March 28, 10-noon.

STBGNC Horticulturist Carol Krank and Nueces Master Gardener "Herbies" share secrets of their favorite herb varieties that thrive in South Texas, offering growing tips, harvesting techniques and simple recipes to get them from garden to table. A tour of the STBGNC's *Earthkind Herb Garden* will follow. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

ANTIQUER ROSES FOR SOUTH TEXAS

Saturday, April 11, 10-noon.

Discover the best antique rose varieties for South Texas and tips to help them thrive from *Antique Rose Emporium's* Robbi Will. Participants will be able to purchase recommended varieties after presentation. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF COLOR IN THE LANDSCAPE

Saturday, May 2, 10-noon.

Learn about how our brains interpret color and how to strategically design and plant your landscape to create moods and special effects from Gill Landscape Nursery Landscape Designer, Kathy Hubner. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

MARVELS OF MOMMA MARTINS

Saturday, May 9, 10-noon.

Coinciding with Mother's Day weekend, Louise Chambers of the *Purple Martin Conservation Association* shares insights of attracting Purple Martins, their ideal housing, and gives a peek into the nests of STBGNC martin colony as she conducts nest checks. Learn what it takes to be a proud mom to these tiny but ravenous baby birds. MEMBERS FREE! Non-members *free* with General Admission.

ORGANIC GARDENING 101

Saturday, May 16, 10 to noon.

Develop a "taste" for organic gardening in this seminar with Andy Chidester, of *Ladybug Organic Gardening*. Learn about several organic gardening styles, techniques, products and how to utilize them. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

COOKING WITH CACTUS

Saturday, May 23, 10-noon.

J.T. Garcia from the *Texas Cactus Council* will focus on growing cacti we can eat, and demonstrate turning them into a delicious meal. Cookbooks will be available for purchase! Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

BEEKEEPING BASICS

Saturday, May 30, 10-noon.

Justin Hodge of *Coastal Bend Beekeepers Association* shares importance of these often misunderstood garden pollinators and how to start a home hive plus other resources for becoming a backyard beekeeper. Products will be available for purchase. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

TEXAS SUPERSTARS

Saturday, June 6, 10-noon.

Aransas/San Patricio Extension Agent Ginger Smith shares plant recommendations from Texas AgriLife Extension state horticulture program—plants selected for heat tolerance, disease resistance and landscape durability throughout the state! Color handouts will be distributed. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

TRUE KOI PONDS

Saturday, June 13, 10-noon.

Learn how to create the perfect Koi pond from *Aquaria Services'* Denise Housler. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

SALVAGE GARDEN DESIGN AND YARD ART

Saturday, June 20, 10-noon.

DeAnna Baumgartner of Gill Landscape Nursery shares her unique perspectives on repurposing unusual items into one-of-a-kind garden features. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE! Optional hands-on workshop following seminar to design a glass garden finial stake with materials purchased separately through STBGNC's Nature's Boutique!

RAINWATER HARVESTING AND LANDSCAPE WATER CONSERVATION

Saturday, June 27, 10-noon.

Discover the different options to collect rainwater at your home from San Patricio Municipal Water District's Karen Ivey. Then learn about the most efficient ways to use this valuable resource in your landscape. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

NEW PLUMERIA PASSIONS

Saturday, July 11, 10-noon.

Plumeria Society member Frank Eicholz will discuss tips on purchasing and raising these exotic, tropical beauties, and lead a tour of the Gardens & Nature Center 100-plant Plumeria Garden & Willoughby Viewing Platform. Winter hibernation also is covered. Limited plants may be for sale. This seminar will give newer plumeria growers basic knowledge before the Plumeria Society's annual sale 10 am to 1:30 pm, Saturday, July 18, at the Garden Senior Center, 5325 Greely. Seminar Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

ARID GARDENING

Saturday, July 18, 10-noon.

Coastal Bend Cactus and Succulent Society's Carol Barragy shares her favorite dry-land plants that thrive in hot summer conditions, followed by a walk-and-talk tour of our Arid Garden. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

BACKYARD BUTTERFLY PARADISE

Saturday, July 25, 10-noon.

Discover the plants Nueces Master Gardener Deb Houlihan used to transform her previously boring landscape into the ultimate butterfly habitat, followed by a tour of STBGNC's Butterfly House and Garden. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

ALL ABOUT TOMATOES

Saturday, August 1, 10-noon.

Staff Horticulturist Carol Krank gives an overview of the plethora of tomato varieties available, shares varietal recommendations, and gives tips on growing a bumper crop of America's favorite backyard fruit. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

HOT FOR HIBISCUS!

Saturday, August 8, 10-noon.

Find out about different hibiscus varieties and how to grow them from Nueces Master Gardener Sabie Morlin. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

CITRUS GREENING – A NEW DISEASE THREAT IN TEXAS

Saturday, August 15, 10-noon.

Janet Fults from Texas Department of Agriculture Headquarters will help homeowners and landscape professionals understand the history of this disease and its potential impact to landscapes and the agriculture industry. Get the most up-to-date information along with tips on how to identify the symptoms and how to protect your backyard citrus trees. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

HUMMINGBIRDS OF TEXAS

Saturday, August 22, 10-noon.

Discover which hummers grace the Coastal Bend each fall and what you can do to keep them around throughout the winter with Texas Parks & Wildlife Biologist Brent Ortego. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

OUT OF YOUR GOURD FOR GOURDS!

Saturday, August 29 10-noon.

Learn about growing unusual gourd varieties and how to harvest, dry gourds from Stephanie Martin and other Nueces Master Gardeners. Then learn all the clever things you can do with the bounty from tools to crafts. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

HEALTHY HERBS

Saturday, September 5, 10-noon.

Discover the medicinal benefits of many herbs from owner of Chiron Holistic, Susan "Sparky" Sparks, and decide which of these medicinal herbs you want to try to grow and use for a healthier lifestyle. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

TRANSITION TO XERISCAPE

Saturday, September 12, 10-noon.

Find out more about practical application of Xeriscape principles from Xeriscape Corpus Christi chair Joanne Salge, and learn about easy ways you can transition your existing landscapes into a water-smart yard that can survive and thrive through the next drought. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

INTRODUCTION TO EARTHKIND GARDENING

Saturday, September 19, 10-noon.

What is "Earthkind Gardening?" Learn about research-proven techniques to provide maximum garden and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting the environment with Nueces Master Gardener Sandra Williams. Then walk through our Earthkind Garden to see practical applications. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

PLAN NOW FOR SPRING WILDFLOWERS

Saturday, September 26, 10-noon.

Fall is wildflower planting season. Plan your spring wildflower garden with tips on selecting seeds and planting techniques from Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener and Texas Master Naturalist Ernie Schertz. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

CREATIVE COMPOSTING

Saturday, October 3, 10-noon.

Learn the basics of composting and practical ways to recycle your kitchen scraps and landscape debris into "Gardener's Gold" from Nueces Master Gardener Bob Becquet. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

COOL HERBS FOR COOL WEATHER

Saturday, October 10, 10-noon.

Staff Horticulturist Carol Krank and her Master Gardener "herbies" will walk you through the variety of herbs that you can grow in cool season months to spice up your holiday recipes.. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

WORKING NATIVES INTO EXISTING LANDSCAPES

Saturday, October 17, 10-noon.

Landscape Designer Kathy Hubner of Gill Landscape Nursery will give you suggestions on native plants for local landscapes that you creatively incorporate into existing traditional landscapes without starting from scratch. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY TREES

Saturday, November 14, 10-noon.

Discover ways you can decorate both inside and out this holiday season with alternative species of trees and shrubs, from Horticulturist and STBGNC Executive Director Michael Womack. Also learn which ones can be planted in your landscape giving dual function for your holiday greenery. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

REBLOOMING PHALAENOPSIS AND OTHER ORCHIDS

Saturday, November 21, 10-noon.

If you have orchids that have lost their flowers, you will want to learn what it takes to get them blooming once again from the practical knowledge of Orchid curator Sam Jones, who will teach you the tricks to getting Phalaenopsis and other orchids to produce flower spikes next year. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

DISCOVERING REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS OF SOUTH TEXAS

Saturday, March 7, 10-11 am, and 2-3 pm.

South Texas Botanical Gardens Facilities Manager and *Resident Reptiles* exhibit creator Billy Feamster teaches kids from three to 93 about habits and habitats of frogs, toads, iguanas, turtles, tortoises, lizards, snakes and other creatures—ones you may want to take a closer look at, or have as pets--and those you do not! Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

CREATE A FAIRY GARDEN!

Saturday, March 14, 3-5 pm.

Learn about plants, containers and accessories to create your own miniature container garden, perfect for fairies, gnomes and other tiny garden guests from STBGNC Horticulturist Carol Krank. Materials available for purchase separately for a hands-on workshop to follow. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE! Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

THE AMAZING BUTTERFLY

Saturday, March 21, 2 and 3:30 pm.

Kids will learn about the fascinating world of butterflies in an interactive skit performed by "The Butterfly Lady," Brenda Dziedzic, author of *Learn about Butterflies in the Garden*. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

BLACKLOCK'S BASIC BIRDING FOR KIDS

Monday, June 29 – Wednesday, July 1, 9 am -1pm

Kids ages eight through 13 will learn basic bird identification techniques and bird biology using fun games and challenges, with entertaining birder, author and naturalist Gene Blacklock, and other guest speakers.

\$75 per child members; \$90 non-members.

KIDS SUMMER NATURE CAMP

June and July choices. Monday through Friday. 9 am to noon.

For ages 5-7, and ages 8-12

Tuition: \$75 members, \$90 non-members.

REGISTRATION MUST BE PREPAID!

AGES 5-7

June 15-19 Birds & Reptiles

July 13-17 Insects & Spiders

AGES 8-12

June 22-26 Birds & Reptiles

July 6-10 Recycling & Repurposing

July 20-24 Insects & Spiders

July 27-31 Recycling & Repurposing

The Botanical Gardens encompasses a unique mix of flower gardens/floral exhibits and plant collections; plus vast acreage of native habitat and natural wetlands, which children love to learn about and explore. This summer, let the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center gift your child with a visual love of nature; understanding of our natural resources; conservation of our fragile environment; plus positive insights into stewardship of native habitats, bird and wildlife, and natural wetlands of this unique South Texas ecosystem. All sessions include adult instructors, door and outdoor studies and activities and take-home nature-related craft projects. Each day, campers will need sunscreen, hat, sunglasses and insect repellent.

[Coastal Bend Community Foundation scholarships are available for most camp sessions for children of families with financial challenges. Call Kathie Waid, 361.852.2100, for more information.]

KIDS CRAFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Saturday, November 28, 10-11:30 am.

Kids looking for holiday craft ideas will enjoy this program that taps into the creative activities of the Junior Master Gardener Program to help them create homemade gifts for family and friends under the guidance of Deb Holliday and Nueces Master Gardeners led by Deb Holliday. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE! Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

HEALTHY HOLIDAY COOKING CLASS!

Saturday, December 5, 10-11:30 am.

Kids will learn some easy healthy holiday recipes from Nueces Master Gardener Sabie Morlin that children can share with their friends in this hands-on workshop to follow. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

HOLIDAY CRAFTS FOR THE BIRDS

Saturday, December 12, 10-11:30 am.

Nueces Master Gardeners Martha and Romeo Gonzales help kids share their holiday spirit with birds and other urban wildlife with fun craft projects for kids ages 4 and up. Included in general admission. MEMBERS FREE!

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Jason's Deli is sponsor of the 2015 Education Calendar!

