



**SOUTH TEXAS
BOTANICAL
GARDENS
& NATURE CENTER**



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MEDIA ADVISORY

November 11, 2020

**HOLLY-DAYS at the GARDENS expands to four weekends—
20-foot live lighted tree, lighting displays, hay rides, petting zoo,
SANTA & animal photo sessions, evening s’mores & cocoa!**

CORPUS CHRISTI— 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 the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, 8545 S. Staples St.

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



Smaller trees “spruce” up Conservatories and Butterfly House, with light displays and cut-out photo ops scattered through Gardens. More fun includes kids’ crafts, story times, caroling sing-alongs, evening s’mores and hot cocoa.

“Since many traditional local events are pre-empted this year, the Botanical Gardens plans a mainly fresh-air menu of seasonal fun and memories, with all health and safety protocols,” explained Executive Director Michael Womack. Indoor activities are limited to decorated trees and family Macaw photos in the Conservatories, and remodeled Resident Reptiles in the Visitors Center—limited times and capacities, masks and social distancing. “We’ve also added Thanksgiving weekend this year for holiday guests,” said Marketing Director MaryJane Crull.

Thanks to sponsors **Valero Bill Greehey Refineries, Port Corpus Christi** and **Joyce Barnette**, special scenery and majority of activities are included in general admission or membership. “Merry Macaw” photo sessions, by reservation only, are \$15 for 15 minutes, benefitting Animal Care program. Prepackaged s’mores and cocoa are \$5 per person. FMI, call 361-852-2100, or see www.stxbot.org.



SATURDAYS

- 9-6 **TREES & LIGHTS; Holiday Cut-Out Photo Ops**
- 10-11 **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

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

{Event subject to future state & local COVID-19 capacities & restrictions. Watch WWW.STXBOT.ORG for any updates.}