

## Popular **PARROT TALK**— with parrots and trainers, changes days & time, effective August 29!



The South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center's new interactive entertainment feature called 'Parrot Talk', has changed its schedule due to peak visitor times and volunteer availability. Effective August 29, PARROT TALK is open to guests at **1:30 pm, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays**, in the Tropical Garden, behind the Bromeliad House, 8545 S. Staples St. (*'Parrot Talk' is held rain or shine—in case of inclement weather, it moves to the Anderson Bromeliad House.*)

The 40-minute segment includes a 20-minute informal educational demonstration with a trainer; followed by 20 minutes of visitor interaction, questions and photo opportunities. McCaws and Cockatoos used on rotation in 'Parrot Talk' include *Sarge, Sam, Tabasco, Goldie, Mitsouko, Glo, Big Charlie, Zazu, Sweetie* and *Nicky*. This program is included in general admission and does not require reservations.

Animal Curator Jay Jensen and Animal Care Specialist Rich Hafemeister are assisted in parrot training, feeding and care by a core group of volunteers, many of which are students at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The Botanical Gardens' 30-plus exotic parrots—given to the facility by the Coastal Bend Companion Bird Club and Rescue Mission, and private donors—became orphaned due to size, owner circumstances, or birds outliving owners. Botanical Gardens staff built outdoor thatched huts which can be heated if needed to keep occupants warm. The Botanical Gardens & Nature Center is open 9 am to 6 pm daily, 361-852-2100, [www.stxbot.org](http://www.stxbot.org).

