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CITGO Corpus Christi Refinery PRESENTS
Moonlight in the Gardens

Benefitting the **South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center**
Beginning at 5:30 p.m., Friday, October 30th, 2015

**October 30 Moonlight in the Gardens fundraiser
changes venue to Ortiz Center, due to weather !
Sells out second year in a row, setting new records!**



Event CO-CHAIRS:

**SHIRLEY MIMS
LARRY DREIER**

TABLE SALES:
Cindy Boudloche
Rick Valls
Mary Jane Garza

AUCTION:
Joyce Barnette
B.J. Kershaw

CORPUS CHRISTI—In its ninth year, one of the biggest, most laid-back and entertaining fundraisers in town—South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center’s *Moonlight in the Gardens*—has set record crowd and revenue numbers, selling out two weeks before the October 30 event at close to 900 people! “But due to issues with huge tents being installed in saturated ground from last weekend’s rains, and high wind forecasts, the event is being moved to the Solomon P. Ortiz Center, 402 Harbor Drive, for the safety of guests,” said Executive Director Michael Womack. “The large dinner tent was 240 x 60 feet,” he added.

Top funders are ‘Man in the Moon’ **Presenting Sponsor CITGO Corpus Christi Refinery**, with ‘Launch Support’ by Super Moon Sponsor **Fulton*Coastcon General Contractors**. Still beginning at 5:30 p.m., most event features are still on. “Moonlight on the ship channel” will include generous selections of Astronomical Appetizers, and multiple indoor and patio Stellar Spirits bars with wine, beer and margaritas serving all evening, indoors and on the patio, depending on weather. Dinner includes the *Best Steak on the Planet*--cooked-on-site, and *Saturn’s Sweets!*

Martian Music Bar and larger-than-ever *Starlight Silent Auction* with new *Grand Galaxy Auction* start off the entertainment. Chatting with talkative Exotic Parrots and their trainers, and *Nep-Tunes* with dancing to multi-decade pop/rock band, *Flashback*, round out this casual party. State Rep. Todd Hunter is program Master of Ceremonies. The only missing element will be the Heavenly Butterfly Release, which will happen at *Botanical Buck Day*, the Gardens’ community dollar day, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, November 7.

“Changing venue is preferable to rescheduling due to rebooking the band, tents, other rental equipment, catering, and guests’ personal schedules—not to mention our continuing El Ninjo weather pattern,” said Marketing Director MaryJane Crull.

Begun and chaired in 2007 by Kim Womack, the party quickly evolved with several chairs and co-chairs including Trey McCampbell, Gloria Hicks, Lura Dietze, Lisa Kennedy, Deneece Squires, Polly Harris, Cindy Boudloche and Shirley Mims, growing from less than 200 guests to this year’s record. Mims has been part of the *Moonlight* event chair team the past four years, the last two with co-chair Larry Dreier. The duo set a 2015 goal to gross the Gardens at least \$200,000, on track with \$175,000 already reached in ticket sales plus auction revenues yet to come. Auction chairs B.J. Kershaw and Joyce Barnette also are four-year veterans. Crull says 94 percent of the 64-person Board was involved this year—buying and selling sponsorships and getting close to 250 auction items in all price ranges.

Unfortunately, no tickets are available at the door. But for those attending, appropriate *Moonlight* attire is anything from faded denim to glitter and sequins--with comfortable shoes--leave your stilettos at home, says the Man in the Moon! Vulcan Valet parking is provided.

Hopefully, you’re among the lucky ones attending the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center’s popular signature fundraiser this evening. If not, next year’s date is Friday, October 14, hopefully back at the Gardens—put on your calendar now!

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