

Landscape School and South Texas Home, Garden, and Environmental Show

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Are you looking for a gardening adventure?

Mark your Calendar, the 2018 the South Texas Home, Garden and Environmental Show will be held on March 3 and 4 this year. The purpose of the free Show is to offer environmentally appropriate gardening information and products for the garden and home for visitors from all over the Region. The show raises funds for youth gardening and classroom environmental grants, again all over the Region, including Bexar County.

Programming in 2018 will again include the Last Chance Forever Raptor Show from 1 to 2pm on both Saturday and Sunday and the Gardening South Texas Radio Show from noon until 2pm both days. You can seek answers for your gardening questions directly from Dr Jerry Parsons and Dr. Calvin Finch.

On Saturday participate in the Plant Exchange Program. Gardeners bring their extra transplants, receive credit for the plants and then use the credits to "buy" other plants in the exchange. The new South Texas Plant Exchange is modeled after successful exchanges operated by the Gardening Volunteers of South Texas and the Devine Garden Club.

The Landscape School is offered on Sunday from 9 am until 2pm. It is one of the only programs in the Show that has a fee. Individuals participate for \$25, or 2 members from the same household can participate for \$40. The fee includes lectures, an individual landscape consultation, and publications on landscape plants, drip irrigation, low-water landscaping, and landscape care. and an individual landscape consultation in addition to lectures. Dr Parsons, Bryan Davis and I will lead discussions on design issues, plant materials, and effective irrigation and maintenance. Master Gardeners will assist us to provide the individual consultations. Call 830 393-7357 to reserve a seat.

Gardening Classes in Tomato Gardening, Attracting Butterflies, Old-fashioned and Tough Modern Roses, and Gardening Floresville Style are back from 2017. New for 2018 is a class on Growing and Using Herbs.

Also new for 2018 is the Reptile Display. If the kids are game, they can handle some of our common reptiles as well as learn about both poisonous and non-poisonous snakes. There are a number of other youth activities including the Home Depot Birdhouse Building, and the Milkweed Planting. The Milkweed Planting includes information about how the youngsters can help restore the Monarch Butterfly population.

One of the most important parts of the Show is to recruit candidates for the new Master Gardener Chapter being organized in South Texas. The classes will begin in April and run for 14 weeks. If you are looking to learn more about gardening, participate in significant community projects and have fun gardening, check out the Master Gardener Exhibit. Bexar County applicants are welcome.

If you are feeling lucky this year, there is a new \$2 raffle with a custom-built hummingbird and butterfly garden as the grand prize. The income from the raffle and the popular silent auction help provide the funding for Classroom Gardens and Environmental Grants.

Attendees that stay over night during the Show at Floresville Hotels or Motels will receive a \$50 rebate to spend at the Show. All attendees will also receive a choice of a 2018 Rodeo tomato, a milkweed or a zinnia seedling in a 3.5-inch container (while they last). The butterflies will appreciate the zinnia or milkweed, and the head food preparer of your household will love the new Rodeo tomato.

The South Texas Home, Garden and Environmental Show is sponsored by the Texas A&M Agricultural Extension Service, the Wilson County News, Milbergers Gardening South Texas Radio Show, San Antonio River Authority, Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District, the City of Floresville, The Master Gardener Chapters in Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, and Gonzales Counties, the Devine Garden Club and the Gardening Volunteers of South Texas.