

# Orchids, bromeliads and plumeria, oh my!

One of the Coastal Bend's visitor destinations is the 180-acre South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center. The center showcases nine floral exhibits and gardens, including the acclaimed Orchid House and Plumeria Garden. The Bromeliad Conservatory and Butterfly House are expected to open summer or fall 2009.

The Orchid House, home to one of the largest public collections in the United States, houses an abundance of cattleya, phalaenopsis, papilionaceae and dendrobium in a climate-controlled environment.

The contemporary Rose Garden, with its large covered pavilion, features 300 rose bushes in raised beds.

The Sensory Garden experience includes two limestone and ceramic tile 'sofas,' and two sculpted ranch hands resting under the tile-legged windmill.

Other exhibits are the Hum-

mingbird Garden, Arid Garden and EarthKind Demonstration Trial Gardens. The new 100-plant Plumeria Garden, with its viewing platform, is thought to be one of the largest public displays in the continental United States.

A walk-through 2,600 square-foot octagonal screened Butterfly House was built in the Butterfly Garden this winter, where a host of nectar and larval plants already were attracting native and migratory butterflies. Also scheduled to open in 2009 is the Anderson Bromeliad Conservatory, a state-of-the-art facility housing 800-plus specimens collected worldwide by Nelwyn and the late John Anderson, internationally known bromeliad collectors, hybridizers and growers.

The Garden Shoppe is open year-round and offers a variety of unique merchandise.

For more information, call (361) 852-2100, or go to [www.stxbot.org](http://www.stxbot.org).



A seaside game on an Arnold Palmer signature course is paradise for golfers.

## Palmer course offers world class, seaside golf

Arnold Palmer's name is legendary in the game of golf. And now Port Aransas has laid claim to a piece of that legend.

The town's first-ever 18-hole golf course, the Newport Dunes Golf Club, is an Arnold Palmer Signature course, which means Palmer kept an eye on the project throughout design and construction.

The course, which opened last year, is located between Beach Access Roads 1 and 1A along State Hwy. 361.

The developers, Texas Gulf & Harbor, Ltd., secured the services of one of the premiere golf course management companies in the country, Kemper Sports, to manage and operate the course.

The ambiance of the Gulf of Mexico and Mustang Island combined with this Arnold Palmer seaside masterpiece to make Newport Dunes Golf Club a world-class golf course destination.

The course will be open 364 days a year, closed only on Christmas Day.

Newport Dunes is a Scottish links-style design featuring rolling fairways, deep stacked-wall bunkers, tightly mowed approaches and quick rolling greens. This par 71 course measures approximately 7,000 yards from the back tees a modest 6,500 from the regular men's tees. Golfers are challenged with the coastal winds and uniquely sloped playing areas.

The first three holes, on the west side of State Hwy. 361, are connected to the remaining 15 holes on the east side of the highway by a

golf cart bridge that provides enough clearance to allow the largest kinds of vehicles to pass under, including tractor-trailers and motorhomes.

The course, open to the public, offers several levels of green fees from standard to senior, junior, military and twilight rates.

Newport Dunes Golf Club offers a deli and grill featuring sandwiches to go and other freshly prepared items. The club also offers an assortment of beverages to meet all golfers' needs.

The golf course was named in Golf Links magazine's Best New Golf Courses of 2008.

Newport Dunes is in the process of achieving full Audubon certification as a sanctuary for wildlife by complying with strict environmental practices and policies.



The Orchid House is a favorite stop at the South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center in Corpus Christi.



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