



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Discover the Hidden World of Plants in “Concrete Botany”
Explore plant identification, native species, and the science behind resilient landscapes

Quinta Mazatlán invites the community to deepen their understanding of the plant world during a special extended Thursday Night Live presentation, “Concrete Botany,” with naturalist, author, and educator Joey Santore on Thursday, April 23, 2026, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Plants are all around us, yet many remain overlooked or misunderstood. In this engaging 90-minute program, participants will learn how to identify plants and their key features, recognize plant families, and discover why grouping plants this way reveals so much about their ecology and evolution. The presentation will also introduce attendees to common native plants of the Rio Grande Valley and explore how they survive and thrive in the region’s extreme heat and conditions. Participants will also gain practical tools, including how to use platforms like iNaturalist to support plant identification and learning in the field.

This program will be led by Joey Santore, an acclaimed naturalist, educator, author, illustrator, and host of the widely followed YouTube channel *Crime Pays But Botany Doesn’t*. Through his work, Joey encourages people to see plants not just for their use, but as living organisms shaped by deep evolutionary histories and ecological relationships. Drawing on years of field observation, he connects plants to geology, disturbance, and time, revealing how even the most overlooked landscapes tell complex ecological stories.

In addition to the presentation, attendees will have the opportunity to explore Joey’s latest work, *Concrete Botany: The Ecology of Plants in the Age of Human Disturbance*, which will be available for purchase and signing at the Quinta Mazatlán gift shop. In this book, Joey examines how plant communities’ function in real-world, often disturbed environments, challenging traditional ideas of what healthy landscapes should look like. His work highlights how dense, irregular, and “messy” plant growth can reflect resilience and ecological strength, offering a fresh perspective on native plant gardening and land stewardship.

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About the City of McAllen

Founded in 1904 and incorporated in 1911, the City of McAllen has grown from a small agricultural community into one of the most vibrant and fastest-growing cities along the U.S.–Mexico border. Known as the “City of Palms,” McAllen serves as a hub for international trade, retail, tourism, and culture in the Rio Grande Valley. Today, the city employs more than 2,600 dedicated public servants across 41 departments, delivering essential services to a community of more than 150,000 residents. McAllen city leaders remain committed to transparent governance, fiscal responsibility, and enhancing quality of life through innovation, infrastructure, and community engagement. For more information, visit www.mcallen.net and follow us on social media @cityofmcallen