

Giant bugs all the buzz at Botanical Garden

Artist who started with dinosaurs shares his big interest in insects

30 Aug 2019 By Deborah Martin STAFF WRITER "I'm



Artist David Rogers created this take on a daddy longlegs mostly from red cedar and willow branches. The forelegs of a praying mantis piece shows Rogers' attention to detail, though he also points to artistic interpretation.

One morning last week, a little boy foot-tall daddy longlegs stood in a stroller was steered into the astride two beds of oregano.

The boy caught the attention of

David Rogers, the artist who built the creature. Perhaps sensing a common interest in bugs, the youngster pointed to his SpiderMan T-shirt; Rogers pointed to the enormous spider he built of carved red cedar, hanging on a web just inside the entrance.

The spider man," Rogers joked.

Actually, he's not just a spider man. He's a self-described bug guy. For 30 years, he has built enormous bug sculptures from natural materials, such as willow branches and black walnut logs.

Ten of them make up "David Rogers' Big Bugs," the fall show at the garden. It's a return visit:

The bugs made their Alamo City debut there 10 years ago.

"We're excited to have them back



in the garden," said Eliana Rodriguez, director of marketing for San Antonio Botanical Garden.

Ten bugs are scattered across the garden's 38 acres. Some, like the trio of ants marching across a field, are visible from a good way off. Others, like the assassin bug, are somewhat hidden.

'David Rogers' Big Bugs'

Where: San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston

When: Saturday through Dec. 8

Opening weekend activities: This weekend, youngsters can take part in a scavenger hunt and can also make their own insects from natural materials. Folks who take selfies with the bugs can redeem

them for prizes at the gift shop while supplies last.

Admission: Included in the regular admission fee, which is \$12; \$10 for students, senior citizens and military; \$8 for ages 3-13; 3 and younger, free

Info: sabot.org; 210-536-1400.

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