

August, 2017

Rainwater harvesting turf management training set for Aug. 29 in Seguin

Contact: John W Smith, 979-845-2761, johnwsmith@tamu.edu
Reagan Hejl, 979-845-5252, Reagan.hejl@tamu.edu
Diane Boellstorff, 979-458-3562, dboellstorff@tamu.edu
Ben Wherley, 979-845-1591, b-wherley@tamu.edu
Ward Ling, 979-845-6980, wling@tamu.edu

SEGUIN – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service’s Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters Program is hosting a residential rainwater harvesting and turf management training with the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership on Tuesday, Aug. 29 in Seguin.

The free event will be from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the [Irma Lewis Seguin Outdoor Learning Center](#), 1865 US Highway 90 East, in Seguin. Seating is limited, so attendees are requested to RSVP to John W. Smith, AgriLife Extension program specialist, College Station, at johnwsmith@tamu.edu or by calling 979-845-2761.

The Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters Program aims to improve and protect surface water quality by enhancing awareness and knowledge of best management practices. Attendees will learn about the design and installation of residential rainwater harvesting systems and appropriate turf and landscape species based on local conditions.

Dr. Ben Wherley, associate professor in Texas A&M University soil and crop sciences department, said management practices such as irrigation delivery equipment, interpreting soil tests and understanding nutrient applications can help reduce runoff and provide additional landscape irrigation water.

“These practices can improve understanding of rainwater harvesting and landscape management,” he said.

Dr. Diane Boellstorff, AgriLife Extension water resource specialist, said proper fertilizer application and efficient water irrigation can protect and improve water quality in area creeks and collecting rainwater for lawn and landscape needs reduces stormwater runoff.

Reagan Hejl, research associate in the soil and crop sciences department, said participants can have their soil tested as part of the training. Residents can pick up a soil sample bag with sampling [instructions](#) from their local AgriLife Extension offices in Guadalupe and Comal counties. Bags will be available at least a week before the event and should be turned in at the beginning of the training.

Hejl said soil samples will be submitted to the AgriLife Extension Soil, Water and Forage Testing Lab for routine analysis, including pH, conductivity, nitrate-nitrogen and other parameters.

Hejl said the program will review how to understand soil test results and nutrient recommendations so residents can interpret results once the analysis is mailed to them.

The soil sample bag and analysis are free to Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters Program participants.

Ward Ling, AgriLife Extension program specialist and Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership coordinator, will discuss updates on watershed protection plan activities to improve and protect water quality in Geronimo and Alligator creeks.

For more information about the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Protection Plan, go to <http://www.geronimocreek.org/>.

Funding for the Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters Program is provided in part through Clean Water Act 319 grants from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The project is managed by the Texas Water Resources Institute, part of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, AgriLife Extension and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M University.