

# The Geronimo Flow

Geronimo & Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership



It's been a hot Summer, folks! And dry, too - according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Comal and Guadalupe Counties are experiencing exceptional drought conditions. We are in a season where people from every background are thinking about water: where it comes from, where it goes, and how to use it wisely. The Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership has been, and will continue to be, deeply invested in protecting our local water resources. This month, we hosted a rainwater harvesting class where attendees learned how to reduce demands on water supplies, reduce runoff, erosion, and surface water contamination. We also raffled off a 50 gallon rain barrel! If you would like to attend future events, you can find all the details in the calendar on the last page of the newsletter.



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## Newsletter Highlights

A Note from Your Watershed Coordinator

Rainwater Harvesting Benefits Local Water Quality

Upcoming Events 2023

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## RAINWATER HARVESTING BENEFITS LOCAL WATER QUALITY

Have you ever considered rainwater harvesting? Water that is captured and stored from rainfall can be beneficial for many different uses: landscape irrigation, a water source for wildlife, in-home use, livestock watering, and storm-water control. Not only is rainwater harvesting legal in Texas, many cities offer rebates for the installation of qualifying collection systems!

But how does rainwater harvesting impact local water quality? First, consider that the most common rainwater collection method is to capture water as it runs off a roof. Normally, that rainwater would rush off the roof, into the landscape, and potentially cause soil erosion. When the water is diverted to a storage tank, then released slowly as irrigation, erosion is reduced or prevented. This process can also reduce contamination of surface water, especially by excess nutrients or bacteria. When water travels across a surface, it picks up and carries particles downhill. If runoff is funneled directly into a creek or stream, it brings those particles with it. However, if water is released slowly and allowed to infiltrate into the soil, excess bacteria and nutrients can be absorbed before reaching surface water.



If you are interested in rainwater harvesting, you will need to

consider several factors. First, what will you use the water for? Water collected for irrigation or wildlife use needs little to no purification. However, if you intend to use rainwater for drinking, you will need to invest in a more complex treatment system. Second, what will be your collection surface? Existing roofs are a great option. Lastly, how will you store your water? One inch of rainfall on a 1,000 square foot roof can produce 550 gallons of collected rainwater! Join us on Sept 12 to learn more at the Healthy Lawns Healthy Waters program in Seguin.

# Watershed Calendar

## Fall

### **Oct 7 - Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Fall Cleanup**

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Seguin and New Braunfels. Volunteer with us for free breakfast tacos, coffee, and t-shirts! It is always a wonderful time making a positive difference to our environment together. Visit [geronimocreek.org](http://geronimocreek.org) to register and for more details!

### **Oct 10 - Homeowner Aerobic System Certification Course**

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife County Office, 201 E. Live Oak St in Seguin. Participants who complete this course will receive a certificate that will allow them to service their own aerobic system in Guadalupe County. Registration is required and limited! Visit [geronimocreek.org](http://geronimocreek.org).

## Winter

### **Texas Well Owner Network**

This event will cover Texas groundwater resources, well management, and will include a free well water test!

