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Rainwater harvesting program set for Nov. 15 in Seguin

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SEGUIN -- The Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership will host a Rainwater Harvesting for Homeowners program from 6-8 p.m. Nov. 15 at the Irma Lewis Seguin Outdoor Learning Center, 1865 Highway 90 E in Seguin.

The class is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

The program is a joint effort of the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Partnership, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, said Ward Ling, College Station, AgriLife Extension watershed coordinator for the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed.

“Rainwater harvesting is a great way to capture and utilize water that is normally lost to runoff,” Ling said. “This process collects rainwater, stores it and allows it to be used when needed, which lessens the demand on existing water supplies. Despite the recent rains, we all know dry times will return.”

He said participants will learn about the benefits of rainwater harvesting and the components needed to build a basic system. The class will include a walking tour of the rainwater harvesting system at the learning center. Attendees will have the opportunity to win one of three rain barrels to be raffled off as door prizes.

“Not only does rainwater harvesting provide an additional source of water, it also reduces contamination of surface water due to storm-water runoff by allowing the rainwater to be filtered more than it typically would be if it just drained directly into the creek,” Ling said.

Attendees are asked to RSVP to Ling at wling@tamu.edu or 979-845-6980 in order to ensure adequate materials and facility space.

Ling said in addition to the rainwater harvesting class, an update on the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Protection Plan will be provided.

“The watershed plan is a comprehensive plan to reduce the elevated concentrations of bacteria and nitrates in the creeks,” he explained. “This meeting portion will provide information about upcoming workshops and events. Attendees will be invited to become more involved in protecting their area creeks.”

In 2008, Geronimo Creek was identified for watershed protection plan development due to concerns about elevated levels of bacteria and nitrate-nitrogen, he said. The Geronimo and

Alligator Creeks Watershed includes parts of Comal and Guadalupe counties as well as portions of the cities of New Braunfels and Seguin.

More information about the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership and this program can be found at <http://www.geronimocreek.org/>.

Funding for this class is provided through a federal Clean Water Act nonpoint source grant administered by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.