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Landscape Workshop for Professionals to Present 'Water Smart' Methods

Contact: *Chris LaChance*, 281-218-0721, c-lachance@tamu.edu

Writer: *Lorri Jones*, 281-855-5620, lv-jones@tamu.edu

HOUSTON - The manicured landscapes that typify urban neighborhoods account for as much as 60 percent of urban water usage, according to Chris LaChance, project coordinator for the Watersmart Landscape Program of Texas Cooperative Extension and Sea Grant Program.

However, landscapes that are designed to be "water smart" not only conserve water but protect rivers, bayous and bays by not contributing to runoff pollution, LaChance said.

Extension will present "WaterSmart Landscaping for Professionals" from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Nov. 15 at the Sheraton Brookhollow Hotel, 3000 North Loop West, Houston. Tickets are \$55 and include landscape workshops, a continental breakfast, lunch and exhibits.

"If you're picturing cactus and gravel, think again," said LaChance. "Watersmart landscapes are as lush and beautiful as they are resource-efficient and low-maintenance."

Topics will include "Getting Smart with Water: The Case for Landscapes," "Building Healthy Soils Saves Money Now," and "The Right Plant in the Right Place." The luncheon keynote speaker will be Dr. Michael Dietz, storm water specialist from the University of Connecticut. Dietz will speak on rain gardens and green roofs in the urban landscape.

Photos and Graphics



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"From storm water management to water conservation, Texas landscapes are under stress," LaChance said.
"Future water policy changes will present challenges and opportunities for all phases of the green industry."

Landscape architects and designers, engineers, grounds managers, nursery owners, neighborhood developers, builders, and city and county planners will benefit from the seminar, she said.

For more information visit the Web at <http://www.watersmart.cc/> or call 281-218-0721.

Co-sponsors of the program are the Houston Endowment, Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation, Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority, San Jacinto Environmental Supplies, Bayou Preservation Association, Houston-Galveston Area Council and Harris County Storm Water Quality Section.

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Texas A&M University System
2112 TAMUS
College Station, TX 77843-2112
(979)845-2895 (979)845-2414

<mailto:newsteam@agnews.tamu.edu?subject=AgNewswebsite>

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