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Rainwater Harvesting Training in Texas

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Abstract Text:

The demand for training on rainwater harvesting is rapidly growing as water resources continue to be strained. The Texas Cooperative Extension is providing trainings to the Texas Master Gardener Association through a specialist program. The training consists of a 16 hour course. The class consists of in-class presentations, hands on demonstrations, and site tours. Participants receive a comprehensive manual, a CD with presentations and evaluations, a trash can rain barrel, and a rainwater bird bath. Upon completion of the course, participants are required to volunteer a minimum of 12 hours back to the community in order to receive their certification as a Rainwater Specialist. Volunteer hours are obtained by teaching others about rainwater harvesting through teaching classes, building community demonstration projects, writing and publishing informational material, public displays at educational events, and more. Participants are surveyed using a retrospective pre-post test to give a self assessment of knowledge gained with respect to various learning objectives. Training objectives, survey questions, and associated participants responses will be discussed during the presentation. Training results, such as volunteer hours, contacts made, and demonstrations built will be discussed during the presentation as well.

Impact Statement:

Through the topic of rainwater harvesting, we have been able to teach watershed and stormwater management, water conservation, and land stewardship on multiple scales. Since June of 2006 we have trained 164 people and 49 people have submitted volunteer hours for a total of approximately 942 hours volunteered. Current numbers of contacts, volunteer hours, and participant knowledge gained will be discussed during the presentation.