

Master Volunteer - Entomology Specialist Training

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Office
9020 Airport Road, Conroe, TX 77303-4334
September 28 – October 2, 2015

The Master Volunteer Entomology Specialist Training program provides a unique opportunity for Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists to deepen their knowledge and appreciation of arthropod life. The purpose of the program is to provide advanced volunteer training to support or expand insect-related county educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The goal of the Entomology Specialist program is not to produce entomology “experts”--rather it is to identify and recognize master volunteers who have received special training to support specific entomology-related programs or projects. In the past, projects have included educational projects for school children about bugs, building entomology collections for county programs, training other master volunteers, developing presentations, and/or applied research relating to insects.

We will explore insects and their relatives as an important part of both the human and the natural environment. Expert speakers will address topics covering insects in the environment, insect identification, integrated pest management, pesticide safety, bees, biting and stinging insects/arthropods, collecting methods and preservation techniques. You will have an opportunity to start an insect collection during the course. Upon completing the course, you will be asked to begin entomology projects within your county to complete the training, and receive a special pin and official title of Master Volunteer – Entomology Specialist.

This year's course will be conducted at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - Montgomery County Office. Night insect collecting will be at the Texas A&M Forest Service location in Jones State Forest, 1328 FM 1488 Road, Conroe, 77384. The registration form and information about accommodations around the Conroe area is attached. The Montgomery County Master Gardener Association (MCMGA) is cooperating with this event.

Registration is on a first come/first serve basis. Only 30 participant spots are guaranteed for this training, along with 5 auditing slots (see below). ***Submit your registration forms as soon as possible. Payment and forms must be in the Montgomery County office by July 18, 2015 and no refunds will be given for any reason after this date.*** A detailed agenda of the week's activities is attached.

Cost: Registration fee of **\$325 per person** that includes:

- three lunches (T,W,Th), one dinner, snacks and drinks during the week
- insect collecting kit including collapsible insect net, collecting jars, vials, glassine envelopes, spreading board, pinning strips, insect pins, pinning block, pin holder, insect repair adhesive, micron pen, labels, soft forceps, straight forceps, butterfly forceps, aspirator, hand lens and insect storage box
- Extension entomology bulletin set and other misc. publications.

We rely on participants to provide their own transportation for travel to local insect collecting and possible field trip sites. Participant should be prepared for outdoor activity and dressed appropriately. We recommend long pants and shoes with socks, long sleeved shirt, sunscreen, insect repellent, flashlights or headlamp, and any other personal items you require.

*** Any volunteer who has previously completed the MVES training and would like to audit an individual class day this year, will be charged a \$25 fee per day which only applies to T, W and Th classes (\$70 for all three days) to cover costs of meals, snacks and drinks (no collecting supplies). Please **pre-register** for the number of days that you plan to attend. Only auditing slots each day are available.***

For more information, contact Dr. Paul Nester, PNester@ag.tamu.edu or call 832-265-5639.

Master Volunteer – Entomology Specialist Training Registration Form

Conroe, Texas
September 28 – October 2, 2015

Please type or print legibly.

Name _____

Name you want on your name tag _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

County _____

Master Volunteer Coordinator/ County Agent Signature (required):

Signature: _____

_____ **Full registration fee: \$325** (Includes lunches (3), dinner (1), snacks, drinks, insect collecting kit and materials distributed during the course).

_____ **Daily Auditing Fee for previous MVES Graduates: \$25 per day (Includes meal(s), snacks & drinks for days paid for. Applies to Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday classes only!**

_____ # days x \$25 = \$ _____ (\$70 for all three days) – auditing is only for MVES Graduates!!!

After July 18, 2015 there will be no refunds given for any reason on registration fees.

Transportation and lodging is at your own expense and not included in the registration fee. If you would like to try to share a room with another course attendee, initial here that it's okay to release your information to other class attendees for purposes of locating roommates. _____

Mail registration check made out to: **MCMGA** along with the completed registration form to:

**Montgomery County Master Gardener Association,
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - Montgomery County Office,
9020 Airport Road
Conroe, TX 77303-4334.
Attention: Kim Bartholet
Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator
kbartholet@ag.tamu.edu**

Remember: Registration due in our office by July 18, 2015 (no refunds given after this date)

For more information:

Dr. Paul R. Nester
832-265-5639

PNester@ag.tamu.edu

Conroe area accommodation options: (other options see below)

Fairfield Inn and Suites
3010 I-45 N
Conroe, TX 77303
936.271.0110
Approximately 4 miles from Extension Office

La Quinta Inn
4006 Sprayberry Lane
Conroe, TX 77303
936.228.0790
Approximately 4 miles from Extension Office

Comfort Inn
1115 League Line
Conroe, TX 77303
936.890.2811
Approximately 4 miles from Extension Office

Holiday Inn Express & Suites
2240 Stoneside Drive
Conroe, TX 77303
936.788.5200
Approximately 5 miles from Extension Office

Hampton Inn & Suites
2242 Stoneside Drive
Conroe, TX 77303
936.539.1888
Approximately 5 miles from Extension Office

For more information on other area accommodations, i.e. hotels, bed and breakfasts, RV parks, campgrounds etc., visit:

Lake Conroe Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau website at www.lakeconroecvb.org

The Woodlands Visitor's Guide at www.woodlandsonline.com

Area Restaurants:

Local restaurant list will be available at the day of check-in.

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September 28th - October 2nd, 2015

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Montgomery County Office

9020 Airport Road, Conroe, TX 77303--4334

Time	Activity	Instructor(s)
<u>Monday, September 28th (Tom Leroy Education Building)</u>		
1-1:30	Welcome and Introductions- Icebreakers	Dr. Paul Nester/Dr. Mike Merchant
1:30-3:00	ENTO 101	Dr. Mike Merchant, Ext. Entomology Spec., BCE
3:00-3:15	Break	
3:15-5:00	Insect Orders - Projector and Table Specimens	Wizzie Brown, Ext. Program Spec. - IPM, BCE
5:00-5:30	Books and other useful reference material	Dr. Mike Merchant/ Wizzie Brown
5:30	Adjourn for the day	
<u>Tuesday, September 29th (Tom Leroy Education Building)</u>		
8:00-9:30	IPM - Overview and Pesticide Toxicology	Dr. Mike Merchant
9:30-10:30	Pantry pests/management	Wizzie Brown
10:30-10:45	Break	
10:45-12:30	Vegetable Garden Pests/Beneficial Insects	Will Isbell, Master Vol. Ent. Spec. Class 2009
12:30-1:00	Lunch	MCMGA
1:00-2:00	MVES Projects/questions etc	Staff
2:00-3:00	Landscape and Ornamental Pests (Spiders)	Dr. Mike Merchant
3:00-3:15	Break- distribute collecting kits	Staff
3:15-3:30	What is in Your Kit?	Dr. Paul Nester, Ext. Program Spec.-IPM
3:30-4:00	Depart for W.G. Jones State Forest	Separate cars
4:00-5:00	Dinner W.G. Jones State Forest	Catered (boxed dinner)
5:00-6:00	Collecting/Photography Demonstration	Staff
6:00-9:00	Night collecting @ W.G. Jones State Forest	Staff and MVES Volunteers
9:00	Adjourn for the day	
<u>Wednesday, September 30th (W.G. Jones State Forest, 1328 FM 1488, Conroe, TX 77384)</u>		
8:00-9:15	Structural Pests	Dr. Robert Puckett, Ext. Entomology Spec.
9:15-10:30	Invasive insects	Allen Smith, TX A&M Forest Service
10:30-11:30	Collecting on State Forest Grounds	Staff & MVES Volunteers
11:30-12:00	Lunch catered (Box Lunch)	
12:00-1:00	Specimen Preparation	Staff & MVES Volunteers
1:00-3:00	W.G.Jones State Forest Grounds Tour	Texas A&M Forest Service Staff
3:00-5:00	Specimen Preparation (more collecting?).	Staff & MVES Volunteers
5:00	Adjourn for the day	
<u>Thursday, October 1st (Tom Leroy Education Building)</u>		
8:00-9:30	Specimen preparation	Staff & MVES Volunteers
9:30-12:00	Fire ants, Crazy ants, Leaf Cutter Ants, Oh My!	Dr. Paul Nester
12:00-1:00	Lunch catered	MCMGA
1:00-3:00	Butterflies etc.	Wally Ward, TX Master Naturalist & V.P. B.E.S.T.
3:00-3:15	Break	
3:15-4:15	Specimen preparation wrap-up	Dr. Paul Nester & MVES Volunteers
4:15-5:00	Re-visit MVES Project ideas – timelines	Dr. Paul Nester & MVES Volunteers
5:00	Adjourn for the day	
<u>Friday, October 2nd (Tom Leroy Education Building)</u>		
8:00-9:30	Flies & forensic entomology	Dr. Sonja Swiger, Ext. Entomology Spec.
9:30-10:30	All about bees	Dr. Juliana Rangel, Asst. Prof. TX A&M Entomology
10:30-11:30	Plants and bees	Texas A&M Graduate Student
11:30-12:15	Honey tasting activity	Dr. Juliana Rangel Bee Lab Personnel
12:15-1:00	Wrap-up/Pack-up/Evaluations and send-off	Dr. Paul Nester