

**Master Gardener Specialist Training
Earth-Kind™ Landscaping
August 3-5, 2016**

Course Description – This specialist training is designed to equip individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills to build and support strong programs in Earth-Kind in their counties, including applied demonstration gardens. Participants will receive advanced training in the principles and practices of Earth-Kind. A wide range of topics will be covered that specifically relate to the Earth-Kind landscape including: plant selection, pest and disease management, innovative landscape design, soil preparation, rainwater harvesting, and irrigation management. Participants will also be exposed to a wide variety of new and novel plants for use in the water-efficient landscape. This exciting training will also focus heavily on landscape design principles that specifically relate to resource conservation, and will include a step-by-step session on the basics of creating your own design. Examples of successful community Earth-Kind demonstration gardens will be featured.

Basic Training & Volunteer Requirements – To be eligible for a Specialist designation, an individual must possess an up-to-date Master Gardener certification. Registration form must be signed by the individual's county MG Coordinator or County Agent. Following completion of training, the individual should complete a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer service in a designated program or project within 12 months to obtain the title of Specialist.

Course Location/Schedule/Topics – The course will be taught at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Office, Conference Room 120, 1402 Band Road, Rosenberg, Texas and at Peckerwood Garden.

Wednesday, August 3rd, 9:15 am – 5:30 pm in Rosenberg followed by outdoor social and dinner
Principles of Earth-Kind Landscape Management
Water Conservation Strategies for the Earth-Kind Landscape
Plant Selection for the Earth-Kind Landscape
Landscape IPM and Disease Management

Thursday, August 4th, 7:30 am – 6:00 pm
Morning

Travel to Peckerwood Garden in Hempstead, Texas by chartered bus where the garden's Director of Horticulture will help us interpret the garden and its design elements. Closed toe, comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

Afternoon in Rosenberg

Elements & Principles of Landscape Design
Basics of Landscape Planning and Design, with hands-on drafting activities

Friday, August 5th, 8:00 am – Noon in Rosenberg

Presentations on the value of applied demonstration gardens in public spaces featuring The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Parks and Gardens, the City of Richmond Earth-Kind Demonstration Garden

A more specific agenda will be posted soon.

Accommodations – We have arranged a \$92/per night rate at three local hotels. This rate is for a single (king), or double (2 queens) and all include breakfast. The Comfort Inn is about one mile from the class site and the Marriott and Hampton are about 5 miles from venue:

Comfort Inn
3555 Hwy 36 South
@ I-59/69
Rosenberg, TX 77471
281-232-7300

Springhill Suites –Marriott
6815 Reading Road
Rosenberg, TX 77471
832-595-2220 ext. 4003

Hampton Inn
3312 Vista Drive
Rosenberg, TX 77471
281-341-9393

There are other hotels along I-59/69 in nearby Sugar Land, which is about 12 miles from venue. Please note however that due to commuter traffic and ongoing freeway construction you will need to allow extra travel time. Standard rates apply.

Cost – Registration fee is \$225 per person and includes: two lunches, one dinner, and light breakfast on day two, snacks, field trip transportation and admission to Peckerwood Garden, drafting materials, and two publications, Best of Texas Landscape Guide and Earth-Kind Landscape Management.

Registration Deadline –Wednesday, July 20, 2016

Class size limited to 24 participants (maximum of 2 per county)

Cancellation Policy – Cancellations after the registration deadline may be subject to a \$100 surcharge

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

Persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids or services are required to contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 281.342.3034 five working days prior to the event. Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.