



City of Kerrville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**"Kerrville Beautification Day – Water Conservation: Best Practices"
to be held July 19, 2014
at the Riverside Nature Center**

Kerrville, Texas (July 15, 2014) – The Kerrville Beautification Advisory Committee (KBAC) is pleased to announce the next "Kerrville Beautification Day" will be held Saturday, July 19, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street. The theme for this month is "Water Conservation: Best Practices." The KBAC in partnership with the Riverside Nature Center will hold an educational opportunity to explore the best practices and methods to conserve water in the Kerrville area, while creating and maintaining a beautiful residential landscape.

Multiple speakers are lined up to discuss the following topics: "Rainwater Harvesting", "Native Grasses", "Drip Systems in lieu of Sprinkler Systems", "Using Native Plants in Landscaping", and "Use of Mulch and Rock in Landscape Beds".

"This is an excellent opportunity to learn how best to landscape and tend greenery that not only survives, but thrives in our drought-prone climate," said Brandon Douglass, chair of the KBAC. "Newcomers to our area will find 'Best Practices' especially helpful".

Registration will open at 8:30 a.m. and there is a \$10 suggested donation to the Riverside Nature Center. Participants are encouraged to reserve their place in advance by calling the Riverside Nature Center at (830) 257-4837, or by e-mail to RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com.

The KBAC meets the first Thursday of every month at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall located at 701 Main Street. Meetings are open to the public and visitors are always welcome.

For more information please contact Ashlea Boyle, Special Projects Manager at (830) 258-1153, via e-mail to ashlea.boyle@kerrvilletx.gov or visit our website at www.kerrvilletx.gov.

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Water Conservation: Best Practices

A Discussion Presented By

The City's Kerrville Beautification Committee and Riverside Nature Center

Saturday, July 19 ~ 9:00 a.m. to noon

Riverside Nature Center

Recommended donation to RNC: \$10 per person

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On July 19, the Kerrville Beautification Advisory Committee in partnership with Riverside Nature Center will hold a meeting to explore the best practices and methods to conserve water in the Kerrville area, while creating and maintaining a beautiful residential landscape.

"This is an excellent opportunity to learn how best to landscape and tend greenery that not only survives, but also thrives in our drought-prone climate," said Brandon Douglass, chair of the city sponsored Kerrville Beautification Advisory Committee. "Newcomers to our area will find 'Best Practices' especially helpful."

The program starts with remarks by water experts Mary Ellen Summerlin, formerly a director at Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District, and Tara Bushnoe, Upper Guadalupe River Authority's natural resources coordinator. Bushnoe said that she and Summerlin will provide "little-known facts and information about our sources of water in Kerr County. The current state of groundwater and surface water levels will be discussed as well as future water use projections, along with what we can do as individuals to conserve and protect this limited resource."



Next on the agenda are five round table discussions on specific topics. Participants will move from table to table for discussions with experts in "best practices" for water conservation in landscaping. Following is a list of topics and the experts who will be on hand to answer questions and give specific information and advice.

Small group discussion leaders:

1. Barry Wall, Rainwater Systems, Inc., "Rainwater Harvesting." Wall has installed everything from backyard systems used for watering plants all the way up to multi-million gallon systems for potable and non-potable water for residential or commercial use. He has worked and consulted on water projects throughout the United States, Mexico, and Haiti.

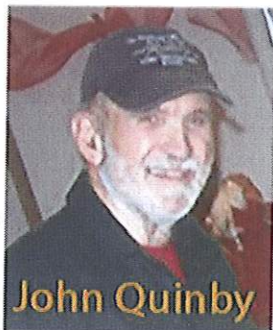
2. George Cates, Native American Seed Company, "Native Grasses." Cates is an expert in native grasses. He has a remarkable facility for looking at problems as "challenges" to be met. Native American Seed, based in Junction, specializes in the Hill Country ecosystem, understanding that it is a delicate web of relationships that have evolved over centuries.



3. Zack Derese, Kerrville Landscape Co., "Drip Systems in Lieu of Sprinkler Systems." Derese has advocated the use and instillation of drip irrigation systems (DIS) in the Kerrville area for ten years. He has successfully installed and converted sprinkler systems for hundreds of homeowners as well as commercial customers including the Peterson Plaza outside City Hall, the Schreiner University Quadrangle, and the Schreiner University soccer fields.



4. Julie Clay, Master Naturalist and plant docent, "Using Native Plants in Landscaping." Clay has studied native plants throughout the seven years she's volunteered in the Riverside Nature Center wildflower meadow. She now gives programs. She also serves as a docent during native-plant sales, advising plant buyers on their selections.



5. John Quinby, Master Naturalist and plant docent, "Use of Mulch and Rock in Landscape Beds." Having been in charge of the Buildings and Grounds Committee at Riverside Nature Center for 12 years, Quinby is well versed in the uses of mulch, rocks of various sizes, and weed mat in landscape beds, and in the diverse outcome each material has on soil quality, weed control, and most importantly, water conservation.

The event takes place at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St. It starts at 9 a.m., with registration opening at 8:30 a.m. Ending time is expected to be around noon. A donation of \$10 to the nature center is suggested. Participants are urged to reserve their place in advance by calling 257-4837 or by email to RNC.Kerrville@gmail.com.

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