



**Barton Springs
Edwards Aquifer**
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MEDIA COMMUNICATION

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, June 10, 2009

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Aquifer District Partners with State and Local Organizations in Leading Summer Institute for Educators

AUSTIN – Fourteen organizations have come together to host the upcoming, fourth annual “Groundwater to the Gulf: Summer Institute for Educators” on June 23 through 25. The three-day, field-based program will provide hands-on experiences with local water experts for 50 educators.

Participants will follow the path of water in Central Texas from its origins to its final destination in the Gulf of Mexico. Activities will focus on hydrogeology, groundwater, runoff and urban watersheds, water quality, water protection, and water conservation.

The Institute is hosted by: Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District; Lower Colorado River Authority; City of Austin’s Watershed Protection and Development Review Department and Parks and Recreation Department; the Austin Water Utility’s Wildlands Conservation Division; Keep Austin Beautiful; Splash! Sheffield Education Center; Bureau of Economic Geology; Colorado River Foundation; City of Sunset Valley; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Texas Water Development Board; Capitol Area Master Naturalists; and Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

The Institute starts at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center on June 23rd, where educators will take part in caving, rain-water harvesting, composting, and watershed modeling activities. On June 24th, educators will visit McKinney Falls State Park and LCRA’s Redbud Center and focus on riparian systems, urbanization of watersheds, and drinking water supplies. The following day, June 25th, participants will explore the geology of the Edwards Aquifer at Zilker Park’s SPLASH! exhibit and discuss the importance of freshwater inflows into bays and estuaries.

By learning about the tools and techniques for monitoring water quality, water conservation, and water management, educators will return to their classrooms prepared to guide students in environmental investigation and research of current water challenges. Participants in previous Institutes have found the curriculum and resources to be instructive, very useful, and uniquely entertaining for a summer teacher’s course.

The 50 educators participating in this year’s Institute come from around the State including Central Texas and the Dallas and Houston areas. Each participant will receive water-based curricula and resources to take back to their classroom, as well as continuing education credits.

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