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Green Thumb



Sharon Aeschbach • THE BATTALION

Junior horticulture major Alicia Bonds plants Copper Plant in the flowerbeds at the Texas A&M Horticulture Gardens located on Hensel Drive Monday afternoon. Bonds' next project is to create a maroon and white flower bed toward the front entrance of the gardens.

Weather

Continued from page 1

chemical engineering major, said those who participate will be encouraged to become part of the local storm spotting network.

According to the NWS Web site, SKYWARN is a program sponsored by the NWS office in conjunction with the local Emergency Management Organization. It is a group of trained volunteers that watches the skies during severe weather and relays reports back to the local Emergency Management Official or the NWS.

Brian Hilton, College Station Emergency Management coordinator, said people who are interested in this program generally show up to educate themselves about severe weather and to become "storm spotters."

Storm spotters chase severe storms around the state during the spring and summer months, Herzog said.

Hilton said emergency management coordinates with NWS by providing feedback whenever a state of warning is declared and they need storm spotters to help them.

"There are about 20 weather spotters, and they must be certified (via the SKYWARN program) every year," Hilton said.

The class held at the Texas A&M Oceanography and Meteorology Building will be reserved for A&M students and will take place in room 112 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The off-campus program will be held in room 101 of the College Station Convention Center from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and again from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The class held at the convention center will be open to the general public, Hilton said.

Herzog said those who attend the class will gain valuable insight into all sorts of severe weather phenomena, including floods, hail, super cells (a particularly violent type of thunderstorm) and tornadoes.

"You'll learn what the difference is between (storm) watch and a warning and how to use visual clues to assess the severity of a storm," he said.

Herzog said that an extensive background in meteorology is not necessary to attend nor understand the material presented in the class.

Everyone who completes the training from the class will receive a certificate of completion and will be eligible to collaborate in storm spotting during severe weather events, Herzog said.

There is no fee to participate in the SKYWARN program or to receive the certificate of completion.

Another SKYWARN seminar will be held April 22 at the College Station Convention Center, room 101 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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