



WATER PAGES

A Quarterly Newsletter Produced by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Water Resources Program: Creating Solutions for Water Quality Issues in NJ

Build-Your-Own-Rain Barrel Workshops Held Throughout New Jersey

For the second year in a row, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program has helped New Jersey residents conserve water by converting recycled food grade barrels into rain barrels. These rain barrels help save water and reduce the amount of rainwater entering the storm drain system, thereby preventing flooding and pollution from entering New Jersey's lakes and streams.

Since the beginning of the year, over 330 barrels have been sold throughout the State. The Water Resources Program staff teaches residents about water conservation options in the home, along with the benefits of using a rain barrel at each Build-Your-Own Rain Barrel Workshop. Food grade 55 gallon drums, once utilized for storing a variety of foods (coconuts, fruit juices and olives), are prepared for homeowners with a thorough cleaning and a 9"x9" square cut in the top of the barrel. At each workshop the participants retrofit the barrels by inserting a spigot and overflow hose adaptor. A 10" x 10" plastic, aquatic basket covered with netting sits in the top hole to capture the runoff water. Information about how to safely install the rain barrel at home is also provided at the workshops.

These informative and practical workshops have been offered at Farmer Markets, Public Libraries, Corporations, Community Parks, Rutgers University, and on the Jersey Boardwalk.

"We are often asked if the captured water is safe to use on a vegetable garden," commented Dr. Christopher Obropta, Associate Professor and Associate Extension Specialist in Water Resources. "We recommend the roof runoff water is tested prior to use if it will be used on a vegetable garden. However, ornamental plants thrive on the rainwater. Using the rain barrel water to wash cars and in toilets are also other good uses."

For more information on the water quality of roof top runoff, see Fact Sheet number 1118 at: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=FS1118>.



Credit Nate Schweber

Sara Mellor is helping Joseph Earley, of New Providence, at the Livingston Public Library on June 29, 2010.



Washington Park in Jersey City, NJ on June 19, 2010



Rain Barrel Workshops Held in The Garden and Empire States

Below are Rain Barrel Workshops held in New Jersey and New York since March 2010

Union County Rain Barrel Train the Trainer, Rahway, NJ
South Bronx Conservancy, South Bronx, NY
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Trenton, NJ
Middlesex County, Earth Center, New Brunswick, NJ
Belmar Township, Taylor Pavilion, Belmar, NJ
Egg Harbor Township, Egg Harbor Community Center, Egg Harbor, NJ
East Greenwich Township, Samuel Mickel School, Mickelton, NJ
Trailside Nature Center, Union, NJ
Como Construir un Barril de Lluvia, Unity Center Partnership, New Brunswick, NJ
New Jersey Water Supply Authority, Somerville, NJ
Holmdel Township, Senior Community Center, Holmdel, NJ
4-H Training, Morris, NJ
Washington Park, Jersey City, NJ
Pennington Farmer's Market, Pennington, NJ
Livingston Township, Livingston Library, Livingston, NJ
ETHICON, Somerville, NJ



Wherever you live in New Jersey, there is a Build-Your-Own Rain Barrel workshop near you!

This Fall the Water Resources Program will offer three "Mega" Build-Your-Own Rain Barrel workshops. There are two times the program will be offered each day. The program has a teaching component and a hands-on retrofitting of the barrels. The cost is \$45 per barrel which includes all materials and use of tools.

North Jersey	Saturday, October 9, 2010	9AM-11AM and 11AM-1PM
Central Jersey	Saturday, October 16, 2010	9AM-11AM and 11AM-1PM
South Jersey	Saturday, October 23, 2010	9AM-11AM and 11AM-1PM

Exact locations are yet to be determined. For more information about each workshop and to register, go to www.water.rutgers.edu

Other Events

August 28	Pennington Farmer's Market Build-Your-Own Rain Barrel Workshop
September 11	The Kingston Village Picnic, Rain Barrel Demonstration, Kingston, NJ
September 18	Go Green at the Red Mill, Rain Barrel Demonstration, Clinton, NJ
September	Rutgers Employees Build-Your-Own Rain Barrel Workshop, Cook Campus
September 25	North Brunswick Heritage Day Rain Garden & Rain Barrel Display
September 25	Cherry Hill Public Day Rain Garden Planting
October 2	4-H Rain Barrel Art Program, Rutgers Zimmerli Art Museum, New Brunswick, NJ
October 9	Regional Build-Your-Own Rain Barrel Workshop, North Jersey
October 15	ANJEC Association of NJ Environmental Commissions Display
October 16	Regional Build-Your-Own Rain Barrel Workshop, Central Jersey
October 23	Regional Build-Your-Own Rain Barrel Workshop, South Jersey
October 25	Sea Grant Art Fund Raiser at Bahrs, Atlantic Highlands, NJ



Where Do Rain Barrels Come From?



Rain Barrels are delivered via a Semi-trailer truck (after much coordination and paying the bill)!



Water Resources Program Interns unload 324 drums off a Semi.

The barrels we use for rain barrels come from many different sources. The Water Resources Program has purchased many barrels from a Canadian company; the barrels originally stored olives. Local companies, such as Coca-Cola and Ocean Spray have been generous in making contributions to the water conservation efforts of the Water Resources Program, as well.



Storing barrels at G.H. Cook Campus of Rutgers University. Next is a good cleaning and cutting a square in the top!

Training Community Groups to Run Local Rain Barrel Programs

Rain Barrels are a great tool for promoting water conservation and the reduction of stormwater runoff in a community. Many municipalities in New Jersey have expressed interest in starting local rain barrel programs or incorporating rain barrels into existing educational activities. Additionally, running rain barrel programs is a great way for a municipality to receive points towards the Sustainable Jersey certification program. Starting a rain barrel program from scratch, though, can be intimidating. Questions such as "Where do I get barrels and materials?" and "How will I transport and store barrels?" can stop most rain barrel enthusiasts in their tracks.

The Rain Barrel Train the Trainer program is for Master Gardeners, environmental commission members, educators, municipalities, community gardeners, and environmental organizations interested in learning how to teach others about the environmental benefits of rain barrels. Three Train the Trainers workshops have been held, one in the fall of 2009 and two in 2010, in Middlesex and Union Counties with over 60 participants from all over the state. Participants receive a packet containing all workshop materials and presentations on hard copy and CD so they can easily put the information to work. The program is run by Michele Bakacs, Environmental and Resource Management Agent for Middlesex and Union Counties.

The goals of the program are to provide participants with:

- the skills to teach others how to build and install a rain barrel;
- the knowledge to teach others about best management practices for water conservation and stormwater management;
- the tools to conduct rain barrel activities in their communities.

Information from questionnaires to program participants revealed that the most important information they needed covered at a Train the Trainer was how to build, install, and maintain a rain barrel. The highest frequency activities participants planned to implement after attending the Train the Trainer was a Build A Rain Barrel workshop, and teaching youth about rain barrels. Additionally, many participants plan to install rain barrels in high traffic areas, such as community gardens and schools, where special planning is needed for safety and security. Instructions for installing on both public buildings and houses, and how to educate the public on appropriate use and application of rain barrel water are taught. Program participants also learn about the water quality of rooftop runoff, as well as how to get rain barrel water tested.

Through the Train the Trainer program, Rutgers Cooperative Extension is able to extend its reach and provide outside organizations with the teaching tools needed to educate the

public on rain barrels, water conservation, and stormwater management. Since March, 2010, 11 rain barrel programs and activities have been conducted by rain barrel trainers to 157 participants. The programs and activities were as follows: two Build A Rain Barrel workshops, six presentations and demonstrations, and three educational displays.

Union and Middlesex County Master Gardeners that participate in the program can receive education credits and volunteer hours. They are required to conduct 8 eight rain barrel volunteer hours at extension events before they can conduct their own activities. Participants also have the opportunity to build a rain barrel for use in their community. There is a fee to attend the workshop. Additional Train the Trainers are planned for the coming year. For more information about the program call Michele Bakacs, Environmental and Resource Management Agent at (732) 398-5274 or email at bakacs@njaes.rutgers.edu.

By Michele Bakacs, Environmental and Resource Management Agent of Middlesex and Union Counties



Rain barrel trainers from the Green Collar Apprenticeship Program, Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District, Newark, NJ



Art Rain Barrels Sell on eBay®

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, and Lucid Graphics coordinated and carried out the pilot "One Barrel at a Time Co-op" program from December 2009 through May 2010. This exciting program gave New Jersey artists an opportunity to beautify rain barrels that were then auctioned off to the public. The objectives of the "One Barrel at a Time Co-op" program were to lend a hand to the environment by having residents bid on beautiful rain barrels and then install them at their homes.

By engaging local artists, rain barrels were designed to be more appealing to the general public while bringing local art to a wider audience. These beautified barrels were displayed in public areas in Trenton, Livingston, Belmar, Egg Harbor Township, Rahway, and East Greenwich. The rain barrels were auctioned off via eBay®, with the profit going to the artist. The eBay® auction kicked off on the 40th anniversary of Earth Day (Thursday, April 22nd) and ran until Saturday, May 1st.

Some of the beautified rain barrels were revealed during the 40th anniversary of Earth Day celebration at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection office in Trenton on Thursday, April 22nd. All thirty-six of the stunning rain barrels were revealed together on Saturday, April 24th at Rutgers Day (a.k.a. Ag Field Day) on the George H. Cook Campus in New Brunswick. The folks who got a glimpse of the barrels that day were intrigued and were inspired to inquire further about the program. A few visitors from Rutgers Day actually won some of the barrels from the eBay® auction. This program was a great success and helped encourage homeowners to think about and be willing to take a step toward helping to protect water resources in New Jersey.

For more information on the "One Barrel at a Time Co-op" program, please visit www.water.rutgers.edu.



Artist: Carol Jean Feinstein
Sold on eBay for \$305



Artist: Joy Kreves
Sold on eBay for \$280



Artist: Joan Horn
Sold on eBay for \$182.50



Artist: Edwin Messy
Sold on eBay for \$158



Artist: Helen Haniffy
Sold on eBay for \$152.50



Artist: Tamara Petrosino
Sold on eBay for \$143.50

The Water Resources Program Staff Grows



Top row, left to right: Amy Boyajian, Program Associate, Jeremiah Bergstrom, Senior Senior Project Manager, Sean Walsh, Program Associate, Jillian Thompson, Program Associate, Dr. Chris Obropta, Associate Extension Specialist in Water Resources and Associate Professor in Environmental Sciences, Lisa Galloway Evrard, Senior Program Coordinator, Dr. Steve Yergeau, Post-Doctoral Associate, Ben Pearson, Program Associate, Caitrin Higgins, Program Associate. Front Row, left to right: Cheryl Burdick, Administrative Assistant, Sara Mellor, Program Coordinator, Hae-An Chyun, Intern, Elaine Rossi-Griffin, Program Coordinator, Dr. Sandra Goodrow, Senior Program Coordinator.



Ben and Rain Barrel



Student Interns: Dan Yu, Daryl Strom, and Kate Sullivan



Jillian, Friend, and Amy

