

For Immediate Release

Media Contact:

Laura Glaza
630-428-4500, Ext. 25
lglaza@theconservationfoundation.org



Save Water, Save Money with a Rain Barrel in Your Garden

Workshop at The Conservation Foundation, 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 12

NAPERVILLE, Ill. (March 28, 2008) – As much as 36,000 gallons of rainwater fall on the roof and through the downspouts of a 2,000 square foot average home each year. Learn how adding a rain barrel to the picture can reduce water bills at The Conservation Foundation’s free Rain Barrel Workshop, from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 12, at McDonald Farm, the organization’s headquarters at 10S404 Knoch Knolls Road in Naperville.

Jim Kleinwachter, The Conservation Foundation’s land preservation specialist, will show how to customize a rain barrel with a screen to keep water free from debris and insects. He will explain procedures to paint the terra-cotta colored barrels, which are imported from Greece and originally intended for the olive trade. For those ready to “take the plunge,” rain barrels will be available for the one-day discounted price of \$50 (regularly \$70). Purchase price includes guidance for customizing the rain barrel for your own home.

While adults are learning about conserving water, kids can learn about nature in their surroundings. In the “Discover Nature in Your Yard” workshop, children will explore the 60-acre working McDonald Farm’s restored wetland, prairie gardens and fields. They’ll hunt for signs of life and record their discoveries in a nature journal. Indoor instruction is available in the event of inclement weather. Cost is \$3 per child.

To register for both programs, email cthompson@theconservationfoundation.org or call 630-428-4500, Ext. 10. Indicate number of participants for each program. For information about other activities and events sponsored by The Conservation Foundation, including membership, visit www.theconservationfoundation.org or call 630-428-4500.

###

Editors, please note: Photos available on request. Rain barrel fact sheet follows.

***The Conservation Foundation**, a nonprofit land and watershed protection organization, is dedicated to preserving open space and natural lands, protecting rivers and watersheds, and promoting stewardship of the environment in northeastern Illinois. Established in 1972 by business and community leaders, it is the only environmental organization to receive the 2008 Annual Award for Business Excellence from The Business Ledger. Working closely with citizens, elected officials, developers, land use planners, park districts and forest preserves, The Conservation Foundation has helped protect more than 30,000 acres of open space. The Conservation Foundation has more than 4,500 donors and members. Its main office is at the 60-acre McDonald Farm in Naperville, Ill., with a program office located at historic Dickson-Murst Farm in Montgomery, Ill. For more information about activities, programs and membership, visit www.theconservationfoundation.org or call 630-428-4500.*



Rain Barrels are a simple, efficient, low-cost method for homeowners to collect and recycle water. It's as simple as placing a large container at the end of a downspout. Instead of running down driveways and sidewalks to gutters, rainwater can be stored for use in gardens and on house plants.

Why are rain barrels beneficial?

- It is estimated that during hot summer months, the average homeowner uses 40 percent of the household water in the yard.
- One quarter-inch of rain falling on the average home yields more than 200 gallons of water.
- Collecting mineral-rich and chlorine-free rain that falls on roofs can pay off when used in gardens and on houseplants; reducing household water bills.
- Conserving rain will help recharge the water supply and reduce the stress on rivers and streams, thereby reducing flooding.

Where are rain barrels available?

- 55-gallon rain barrels, which stand 35 inches high, are available through The Conservation Foundation
- They are shipped from Greece and were originally intended for the olive trade.
- The rain barrels are terra cotta in color and are made of food-grade plastic, which can be painted.
- Once the screw-off plastic lid is removed, rain barrels can be equipped with screens so they are insect and debris resistant and safe around children.
- A brass hose spigot on the bottom of rain barrels makes captured rain water available through a simple gravity system.
- Overflow or connections to additional barrels can be installed.
- The Conservation Foundation offers wooden stands, which are recommended as a base.

How can rain barrels be purchased?

- Rain barrels are available for \$70. Wooden stands are available for \$10.
- Payment is accepted in cash, by check or credit card.
- Rain barrels can be purchased at either office of The Conservation Foundation (listed below).
- For details about the benefits of rain barrels, visit www.theconservationfoundation.org.
- For more information, contact Jim Kleinwachter, The Conservation Foundation's land use specialist, by email at jkleinwachter@theconservationfoundation.org or phone at 630-553-0687, Ext. 302.

The Conservation Foundation
Headquarters: McDonald Farm
10S404 Knoch Knolls Road; Naperville, IL 60565
630-428-4500

The Conservation Foundation
Program Office: Dickson-Murst Farm

2550 Dickson Road; Montgomery, IL 60538
630-553-0687