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Roll Out The Rain Barrel

Brian Vadino, watershed specialist for the Delaware County Conservation District, demonstrates the use of a rain barrel to Delaware County Council Vice-Chairman Christine Fizzano Cannon, Council's representative on the Conservation District's board. The County's Conservation District is teaming up with the Pennsylvania Resources Council to host four workshops on "Healing the Watershed," which focus on the use of rain barrels and the creation of rain gardens. The workshops are open to the public and the first is set for 7 p.m. March 9 at the Resources Council in Newtown Square. For information visit www.delcoco.org or call (610) 892-9484.

County residents can save rain to 'Heal the Watershed'

Free Rain Garden Series Helps Homeowners Improve Water Quality While Lowering Bills

Rain barrels and rain gardens are effective ways for homeowners to conserve on water bills and protect the region's watershed.

The Delaware County Conservation District is partnering with the Pennsylvania Resources Council to offer a series of four free Rain Barrel and Rain Garden workshops to teach residents the benefits of these personal water quality systems.

The “Healing the Watershed” series will commence 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, at the Pennsylvania Resources Council, 3606 Providence Road, Newtown Square. A second workshop is set for 6:30 p.m. April 12 at Brookhaven Municipal Building. The remaining two workshops will be announced at a future date.

Each workshop aims to educate homeowners on various storm water management practices that can be implemented at home to improve local water quality.

In densely developed areas, the cumulative effect of storm water run-off from rooftops, parking lots and impervious surfaces can have a negative impact on the health of local streams. Through these workshops, staff from the Delaware County Conservation District will educate residents on sources of pollution, the problems associated with storm water run-off, and ways that individuals can protect natural environment through the conservation of soil, water and other resources.

Participants will learn how to construct and maintain a beautiful rain garden, which is a shallow, constructed depression that is planted with deep-rooted native plants and grasses. Rain gardens not only conserve water and reduce runoff pollution; they also reduce the potential for home flooding and mosquito breeding, while creating a relaxing home retreat that serves as a peaceful habitat for birds and butterflies.

(more)

(Watershed workshops)

Rain barrels, connected to a home’s downspout, help residents lower monthly water bills and reduce demand for treated tap water. A rain barrel, also known as a rain bank, collects water right off the roof giving people an ongoing supply of naturally softened water that is ideal for watering plants or washing windows and cars. The chlorine-free water helps maintain healthy soil.

Rain barrels are also a backup source of water during drought conditions.

Rain barrels come with a screw-on, perforated top to keep out mosquitoes, bugs, debris, pets and children.

Delaware County Council Vice Chairman Christine Fizzano Cannon, Council’s representative on the Conservation District board, said the “Healing the Watershed” programs are one of many ways that County Council strives to conserve energy and protect the county’s natural resources.

“County Council is being proactive in addressing environmental issues and one of our goals is to educate our residents about conservation,” Vice-Chair Fizzano Cannon said. “These educational workshops are just one way that we are working right alongside with our residents to protect our water, our land and our natural resources.”

The workshops are being funded through an education grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Residents can register for the “Healing the Watershed” workshop online by visiting www.delcocd.org or by contacting the Delaware County Conservation District call (610) 892-9484.

Attending Tuesday’s Council meeting to announce the “Healing the Watershed” series and to display a demonstration rain barrel are Brian Vadino, watershed specialist for the Delaware County Conservation District, and Mario Cimino, regional director at the Pennsylvania Resources Council.