



Great Swamp Watershed Association

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PLEASE NOTE: Information contained in this press release has been superseded by another press release issued on June 23, 2014. Please refer to that release for updated information.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 19, 2014

Workshop Will Provide Blueprint For Free Water

Great Swamp Watershed Association will teach homeowners how to build a water-saving rain barrel on July 23.

Morristown, NJ—The Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) will teach a step-by-step course on the construction of household rain barrels on Wednesday, July 23, 2014. The event will take place between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the organization's headquarters located at 568 Tempe Wick Road in Morristown, NJ.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) about 30% of the 2.6 billion gallons of water Americans use each day is used outside, mostly for landscaping and irrigation. In the summertime, when conditions are hot and dry, outdoor water use can actually exceed amounts used for all other purposes in a household throughout the rest of the year.

This means that homeowners routinely use pure drinking water to fertilize lawns, wash cars, and maintain trees and shrubs. As the costs associated with maintaining a pure drinking water supply continue to rise, securing an alternative source of water for outdoor use not only helps homeowners save money, it also reduces some of the pressure on New Jersey's precious potable water resources.

A household rain barrel can provide such an alternative water source. Properly attached to a home's gutter downspout, a rain barrel can capture and store as much as 55 gallons of the water falling onto a roof during each rain storm. And homeowners can use all the free water they have harvested for any number of outdoor tasks, including lawn watering, ornamental gardening, and landscape maintenance—even during droughts when use of the conventional water supply is restricted by law. Beyond the immediate financial benefits, household rain barrels also work to ease local problems with flooding and water pollution—two environmental issues of great concern to many residents of New Jersey.

The Great Swamp Watershed Association invites all those with an interest in installing a household rain barrel to attend its upcoming workshop on July 23. Under the guidance of a professional, each workshop participant will build their own ready-to-install, 55-gallon rain barrel from a kit provided by

Paterson-based Green Mojo Eco Consulting. New owners will also be taught how to install and maintain their rain barrels at home.

The cost for participation in this workshop is \$75 per rain barrel kit. Individuals may work together to build a single barrel, if desired. All participants must be able to transport their rain barrels home at the end of the event. No delivery service is available.

The number of rain barrel kits available is limited, so advanced registration and payment is required. To register for this event, please visit the Great Swamp Watershed Association online at *GreatSwamp.org* or call (973) 538-3500 x22.

For those who do not wish to build their own, fully constructed rain barrels are available for purchase at a cost of \$100/barrel. Completed barrels will be delivered to the Great Swamp Watershed Association and must be picked up by the purchaser. No delivery service is available. Call for details.

Support for this Great Swamp Watershed Association rain barrel workshop has been generously provided by RBC Wealth Management, Parsippany Complex.

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About the Great Swamp Watershed Association. Founded in 1981, the Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the water and land of New Jersey's 36,000-acre Great Swamp Watershed region. GSWA works with stakeholders in Morris County and Somerset County municipalities to maintain the health and beauty of open spaces; to educate the public about regional environmental issues; and to monitor and safeguard the five headwater streams—Loantaka Brook, Great Brook, Primrose Brook, Black Brook, and the Upper Passaic—that feed the Great Swamp and the Passaic River.