

The Conservation Spotlight

**A Supplement to the
St. Joseph County SWCD's
Quarterly Newsletter:
The Conservation Kaleidoscope**



Issue 1.2, April 2010

Dates to Jot Down

Monday, April 5, 2010

Cut-Off Date for **Pre-Orders** on our
**2010 Rain Barrel and Composter
Pre-Sales Event** (*see pgs. 3-7 inside!*)

Saturday, April 17, 2010 (8AM-Noon)

Pick up your pre-ordered **Trees**,
pre-ordered **Rain Barrels** and
Composters, and **“Extra” Trees** at the
St. Joe County Fairgrounds, Swine Barn

Monday, April 19, 2010 (7:00 PM)

St. Joseph County SWCD's Monthly
Board Meeting @ Farm Bureau Meeting
Room (5605 US 31 South, South Bend) –
**ALL ARE WELCOME TO
ATTEND!**

Tuesday, May 11, 2010 (6:30 PM)

St. Joseph County SWCD's **FREE**
Spring Composting Seminar @ the
Downtown St. Joseph County Public
Library (Colfax Auditorium) **Call our
office to reserve your spot!**

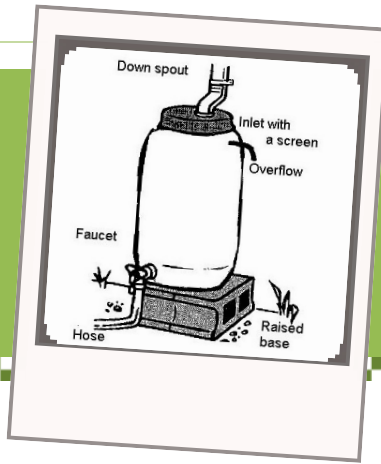
St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District

USDA Service Center
5605 US 31 South, Ste 4
South Bend IN 46614
Phone: 574-291-7444, ext. 3

Hello!

Welcome to this special supplemental edition of our regular quarterly newsletter, **The Conservation Kaleidoscope**. In this issue, our “spotlight” (or focus) is on our readers throughout St. Joseph County and the surrounding areas who are homeowners and/or renters. We are especially excited to announce our first-ever **Rain Barrel and Composter Sale**, and have included details on these items in this issue of **The Conservation Spotlight**. We will be taking pre-orders until Monday, April 5th, and the pick-up date will coincide with our **Tree Sales** pick-up from 8AM to Noon on Saturday, April 17th at the St. Joe County 4H Fairgrounds Swine Barn. We hope to see you there!

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Rain Water Harvesting: An Old Idea

Collecting and using rainwater is not a new idea. In fact it can be traced back as far as 2,000 years ago to Thailand where residents collected rainwater in simple clay containers.

Many readers may even remember years past, when collecting rain water in barrels was common practice. At the time, people did this for very obvious reasons. Collecting rain water saved the time and energy required to haul water from a stream or to manually pump the water from a well. Additionally, collecting and storing rainwater helped to safeguard against shortages and droughts.

In today's world there is more demand on our water resources than ever before as well as a growing cost for consuming it. Our technology has improved to allow us to draw water from deeper and deeper within the earth, with less and less work required to do it. As a result, we have found it easier to consume as much water as we want with little thought given to how many gallons we pour on the lawn, how much runs down street as we wash the car, or trickles down the drain while brushing our teeth.

The average American uses 69 gallons of water per day *inside* their house alone, according to the American Water Works Association. Little by little however, the results of our consumption are beginning to show.

Our increased population and demand for water, whether it is for growing food or taking long showers,

has required us to drill deeper for water and pipe it longer distances. The increased expense of this is being reflected in our water and electricity bills and the problem will only increase as our water supply diminishes.

That is why, after all of these years, people are remembering a good idea that they had before—a low cost, low energy way to collect water and use it where and when it is needed.

Rain barrels, tanks and cisterns can be utilized to collect rain water from roofs and gutters during rain events. In Indiana, a 2,000 square foot roof can collect 40,000 gallons of rainwater per year according to Purdue University. Imagine catching all that water that would otherwise run down your driveway and into the street or ditch, and putting it to use on your lawn or garden.

Many people are rediscovering a great way to save money while benefiting the environment by using rain barrels and now you can too!

The St. Joseph SWCD (as well as the internet and your local library) has many resources available to help you learn about and build your own rain barrel. We are also pleased to announce that we now have pre-constructed rain barrels available for purchase through our office. **For more information, please refer to the order form in this issue of The Conservation Spotlight or contact our office.**

In Indiana, a 2,000 square foot roof can collect 40,000 gallons of rainwater per year..

**ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

24th Annual Tree Sale

We sincerely thank everyone who pre-ordered seedlings in our 2009-2010 conservation tree sale fundraiser. Many of the species offered in our annual tree sales are native to Indiana and attractive to various types of wildlife. Your purchase shows your support for local conservation efforts in St. Joseph County. We use the funds generated through these tree sales to provide educational programs in your community, as well as a variety of technical and financial assistance to private landowners.

*Pick-up for Pre-Orders at the
4-H Fairgrounds*

Pre-ordered items will be available for pick up on Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to Noon (EST) at the St. Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds in the Swine Barn.

Please note that all sales are final, and any pre-ordered items that are not picked up run the risk of being given away to local public entities.

If you missed the deadline for pre-ordering trees, or if you would like to order additional items, you still have a chance to purchase them. We will have extra trees for sale at the same time as the order pick-up. Come early for the best selection, as the extra tree sales are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

*"Surplus" Trees...
Price per Tree*

Evergreens	
American Arborvitae	\$1.80
Blue Spruce	\$2.00
Douglas Fir	\$2.00
Norway Spruce	\$2.10
White Pine	\$1.90
Canadian Hemlock	\$1.90
Deciduous Trees	
Black Walnut	\$1.30
Hybrid Poplar	\$2.10
River Birch	\$1.80
Sugar Maple	\$2.10
Swamp Chestnut Oak	\$2.10
Tulip Poplar	\$1.90
White Oak	\$2.10
Whitespire Birch	\$1.80
Flowering Trees & Shrubs	
American Plum	\$1.50
Common Lilac	\$1.60
Kousa Dogwood	\$1.90
Roselow Sargent Crabapple	\$1.80
Redbud	\$1.90
Shadblow Serviceberry	\$2.20
Groundcover:	
Pachysandra (QTY 25)	\$16.70
Wildflowers: Per Package	
American Mix	\$7.50
Bird & Butterfly Mix	\$7.50
Rain Barrels, Composters, & More:	

Check out pages 4-7 of this issue of **The Conservation Spotlight** for details!



Some Benefits of Trees
(Image Source: www.southsomerset.gov.uk)

2010 Rain Barrel and Composter Pre-Sales Event

*** Pre-Order Cut-Off Date: Monday, April 5, 2010 ***

Items for Sale

RAIN BARRELS

All Rain Barrels are food quality high density polyethylene that were previously used to ship pickled food from overseas. They are imported into the United States from all over the world. They are cleaned and rinsed with rain water and customized with fittings and screens for your use. They are upcycled, which is the practice of taking something that is throwaway and repurposing it into something of greater utilization and intrinsic worth, in its second life.

The Rain Barrels are designed to leave out all year round. No need to install and remove the downspout each time the barrel is put in place or removed. The only thing you need to do to prepare for the Winter season is to drain all the water out of them, open the shutoff valve, remove the linking fitting cap, remove any hoses, and leave them standing. All fittings are plastic, and are made in Indiana using 40% recycled material.

Upcycled Product - 55-Gallon Rain Barrels: Our Price: \$65 each

All of the Rain Barrels are 35 to 40 inches tall. Upcycled and sanitized plastic Rain Barrels formerly used for food product shipping. Modified into Rain Barrels and assembled with a spigot, linking fitting at bottom end, overflow fitting near top and screen enclosure for top. They come with one set of instructions to aid in setup, using and maintaining barrels. The shapes for the barrels will vary depending on what is available for upcycling at the time of order. All Rain Barrels are upcycled so they will not be in a brand new condition. Photos are a general representation of the barrels.



Automatic Rain Water Diverter: Our Price: \$25 each

The Garden Watersaver is designed and built to fit a standard 2 x 3 inch residential downspout. Rainwater flows from the roof into the gutter downspout and gets captured in the Watersaver reservoir. When the reservoir fills the water then takes the path of least resistance which is the units lower exit spout that leads, via a hose, to the Rain Barrel (container). When this Rain Barrel is full, back pressure occurs and the water then exits out of the upper exit spout into the normal drainage system. No need to modify or remove your downspout. This system is fully automatic. When Rain Barrels need water it will fill them first, when they are full the water is then sent back down your existing downspout to exit as it did before.



Linking Hose: Our Price: \$8 each

The linking hose is used for attaching multiple Rain Barrels together. All the Rain Barrels are supplied with a linking fitting toward the bottom end of the Rain Barrel directly below the overflow fitting. This allows you to modify only one downspout from the roof in any given location around the home or building and have increased storage capacity. Simply remove the cap from the two linking fittings, thread the linking hose to the two linking fittings and the Rain Barrels are now joined. The Rain Barrel taking the water from the roof then shares with the rest of the Rain Barrels that are linked together with the linking hose. All Rain Barrels fill equally and then empty equally. Some increase in pressure will be realized. However, the main advantage is increased capacity. During summer months when the Rain Barrels start getting low it is assured that a 15 minute mid afternoon thunder burst will fill all the Rain Barrels back to capacity. This is a black 1/2 inch hose by 4 foot long. No tools required.



Flex Elbow: Our Price: \$5 each

Flex elbow is for attaching from downspout to discharge into the Rain Barrel opening. The 2x3 inch size Flex Elbow will extend from 8 to 18 inches long. It fits standard 2x3 rectangular or up to 3x3 square downspouts. It makes it very easy to wrap a downspout around the corner of a building or house in order to better conceal the Rain Barrel. It also makes installation of discharge into Rain Barrel easier, without having to modify aluminum or plastic downspouts. Simply cut the downspout where you want to install flex elbow and then slide it in place. It comes in your choice of color of either white or brown.



Upcycled Product - Plant Hangers: Our Price: \$12 each

The plant hangers are made from stainless steel and aluminum strapping. Originally, the strapping was used for securing shipping crates for overseas shipment. They are used because they are not affected by salt water and spray. These particular strappings are collected in Chicago land area and are upcycled into plant hangers. They are made to accept a standard 4" diameter or smaller pot. The plant hangers allow the homeowner to blend their Rain Barrel into the yard with a more aesthetically pleasing look. They are available in 30, 33 and 38 inch lengths.



Upcycled Product - Pedestal Riser: Our Price: \$20 each

Not getting the kind of water pressure you would like out of your Rain Barrel? Give gravity a little boost with the Rain Barrel Pedestal! Would you like to have the convenience of that bottom spigot being just a little bit higher? The Rain Barrel Pedestal would do the trick!

They are made of 100% upcycled lumber, so not only are you doing your back and gravity a favor, you are also helping out our environment. The exact design and materials used to make the Pedestals will vary somewhat depending on what is available for upcycling at the time of order.



Rain Barrel Netting: Our Price: \$10 each

This netting is the perfect inexpensive solution for the gardener who wants a Rain Barrel but doesn't want one that draws the eye sight away from their plants. This is a black plastic netting that comes with clips to hold it around the barrel. It is very easy to install. Then plant any type of vine in the ground below and let it grow up the netting. There are several fast growing vines like the clematis or sweet potato vine that will leaf out in Spring and cover the Rain Barrel with beautiful flowers in Spring and Fall. Your Rain Barrel will become a beautiful addition to your garden with this simple solution.



Upcycled Product - 55 Gallon Tumbling Composter: Our Price: \$120 each

Eliminate back strain with this hip level Composter. The best garden tools are those that fit your Style. If you prefer to work at waist level, this elevated compost maker is perfect. It is made with upcycled components, including a pre-used 55 gallon black food-grade barrel and 100% upcycled lumber painted with water-based exterior latex paint.

The Composter is about 4 foot tall and only requires a 3 foot by 4 foot area. You can put it in a smaller area for storage, but you'll need that much space free from obstacles to spin the barrel and properly aerate the compost. Using a rocking motion to build momentum, a Tumbling Composter is relatively easy to turn. However, the composting action will rapidly reduce the content of the barrel to less than half its starting volume.

Tumbling Composter Features and Benefits:

- Holds an impressive 7.3 cubic feet of material! This is approximately 55 gallons
- Low maintenance, nothing to clog up
- Pest proof, fully enclosed, off-the-ground compost bin
- Avoids odor problems by controlling moisture and aeration in excessively dry or rainy areas
- Provides insulation to aid heating of compost
- Compost Tumbler can be moved around the yard
- Assembled dimensions: 36" wide by 36" deep by 46" tall
- Weight: 45 lbs
- Easy mixing and turning of the compost materials
- 5 year manufacturer's warranty



The color of the composter is black.



Inside view of composter

Upcycled Product: 5 Gallon Mini Tumbling Composter: Our Price: \$45 each

The 5 Gallon Mini Composter is the same design as our 55 Gallon Composter with the inner tube to allow oxygen in and moisture out. It is made of 5 gallon recycled Food Grade barrel with cross bars to break up compost material.

Fully Assembled it is only 22" Tall and 16" wide.



The color of the mini-composter terra cotta.

2010 St. Joseph County SWCD Rain Barrel, Tumbling Composter & Fat Trapper Pre-Order Form

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
 EMAIL _____
 TELEPHONE (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

OFFICE USE ONLY Order # _____ Check # _____ Amount: _____ Date: _____ Initials: _____

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	PRICE	SUBTOTAL
RAIN BARREL: 55 Gallon (Color: Gray)		\$65.00	
RAIN BARREL: 55 Gallon (Color: Terra Cotta)		\$65.00	
RAIN BARREL: 55 Gallon (Color: Black)		\$65.00	
RAIN BARREL: 55 Gallon (Color: Blue, Color Style 1)		\$65.00	
RAIN BARREL: 55 Gallon (Color: Blue, Color Style 2)		\$65.00	
Automatic Rain Water Diverter (Rain Barrel Accessory)		\$25.00	
Barrel Netting (Rain Barrel Accessory)		\$10.00	
Plant Hanger (Rain Barrel Accessory)	30in. 30in.	\$12.00	
Flex Elbow—White (Rain Barrel Accessory)		\$5.00	
Flex Elbow—Brown (Rain Barrel Accessory)		\$5.00	
Pedestal Riser (Rain Barrel Accessory)		20.00	
Linking Hose (Rain Barrel Accessory)		\$8.00	
TUMBLING COMPOSTER: 55 Gallon (Color: Black)		\$120.00	
TUMBLING COMPOSTER: 5 Gallon (Color: Terra Cotta)		\$45.00	
FAT TRAPPER Starter Kit		\$5.00	
FAT TRAPPER Refill Kit—5 Pack		\$3.00	
FAT TRAPPER Refill Kit—10 Pack		\$5.00	
TOTAL		\$	

**** DEADLINE FOR ALL PRE-ORDERS IS: MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2010 ****
PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR PRE-ORDER
 PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: St. Joseph County SWCD

Mailing Address:
 St. Joseph County SWCD
 5605 US 31 South, Ste. 4 * South Bend, IN 46614
 Phone: 574-291-7444, ext. 3
 Email: maria.schaefer@in.natcdnet.net

Rain Barrel & Compost Bin Pick-Up

WHEN: Sat, April 17, 2010, from 8AM-12-Noon
 WHERE: ST. JOSEPH COUNTY 4H FAIRGROUNDS (South Bend), @ the SWINE BARN
ALSO AT THE FAIRGROUNDS during Rain Barrel/Compost Bin Pick-Up: Pre-Ordered Tree Sale Pick-Up and EXTRA TREES FOR SALE, TOO!

ATTENTION—RE-STOCKING FEE

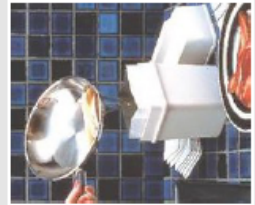
There will be a 10% re-stocking fee for orders that have not been picked up during the designated date and time.
 If you do need special arrangements, call our office before ordering to see if we can accommodate you.



We are currently selling Fat Trappers, attractive receptacles designed to help reduce the amount of FOGs that enter septic systems and sewer collection systems. FOGs can build up in the sewer lines and cause backups and overflows. The Fat Trapper will help to reduce operation and maintenance difficulties associated with FOGs.

Call our office or visit our website www.stjosephiaswcd.org/FOG.pdf to find out more or to order your own Fat Trapper™ Starter Kit (Fat Trapper™ & 2 bags @ \$5) and Refill Packs of 5 bags @ \$3 or 10 bags @ \$5.

You can order Fat Trappers and Refill Packs anytime at our office, or you can pick some up along with your Rain Barrels and Tumbling Composters on Saturday, April 17, 2010 by using the accompanying Order Form.



About 30 percent of what we eat is Fats, Oil, and Grease, or FOG. Fat, oil and grease aren't just bad for your arteries and your waistline; they're bad for your sewers too! Often, FOG is washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. It sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and under the street) and over time, can build up and block the entire pipe. That's when you get disgusting CLOGS and possibly even a sewer backup.

A Few Do's:

- Dispose of all FOG in its proper place... which is NEVER in your drain.
- Pour all cooled cooking FOGs that will harden (bacon grease, meat drippings) into lidded or sealed container like the Fat Trapper™ foil lined bags or a coffee can and dispose of in the garbage.
- Scrape, then dry wipe pots, pans, dishes, and utensils with a disposable towel and throw towel in trash.
- Keep drains clean by using vinegar and warm water or commercial products to dissolve grease.

A Few Don'ts:

- Pour used FOG down the drain!
- Put food scraps down the drain.
- Rinse the pan/plate/utensil with hot water.
- Use chemicals to remove grease CLOGS. They do not dissolve the grease, only move the problem further down the line.
- Dump grease down storm drains.

Fats, Oils, and Grease are naturally produced during cooking and baking. Common sources of FOG include:



- Meat Fats • Lard • Sauces
- Shortening • Butter/Margarine
- Cooking Oil • Salad Dressing
- Dairy Products • Baked goods
- Fatty/Greasy Food Scraps



5605 US 31 South, Ste 4
South Bend IN 46614

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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PERMIT NO. 225

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Paul Williams, III, Vice-Chair
John Kulwicki, Member
Jim LaFree, Member
Carole Riewe, Member

Associate Supervisors:

Dave Craft
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Jim LaFree
Charles Lehman
Joe Long
Randy Matthys
Eugene Myers
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Dale Stoner
Dave VanDewalle
Dru Wrasse

OUR MISSION

***To provide guidance and
education to the youth and
adults of St. Joseph County
and to administer pro-
grams to preserve, protect
and improve soil, water, air,
plant, and animal resources
for future generations.***

Honorary Members:

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Al Gostola
Jerry Knepp
Keith Lineback
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