

Rain Barrels to Harvest the Rain!

We are pleased to announce that three Monocacy & Catoclin Watershed Alliance partners are offering rain barrels to Frederick County residents this spring: the County's Scott Key Center; Rick Hood, a local organic farmer at Summer Creek Farm; and Jennifer Willoughby with the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB). Each barrel is a little different and supplies are limited. Check out which is best for you and join your neighbors in harvesting rain water for outdoor uses while you reduce storm water runoff into nearby streams.

The Scott Key Center is offering former olive barrels, recycled to catch your roof run off. You can learn more about them on this flyer or by contacting Scott Key Center, 1050 Rocky Springs Road, Frederick, MD 21702, 301.600.1600 or scottkeyemail@fredco-md.net.

Rick Hood's Summer Creek farm is located just north of Thurmont on Mud College Road. Rick supplies Community Supported Agricultural (CSA) subscribers as well as local restaurants with fresh, local organic produce. His rain barrels are described at <http://www.summertimecreekfarm.com/products.html> and are made from recycled juice containers. They attach easily to your gutters and have overflows, once full. Installation is available.

Jennifer Willoughby with ICPRB <http://www.potomacriver.org/cms/> is offering Rain Bear Rain Barrels which are recycled food-grade barrels. Their black color makes them UV-resistant so they will last outside for years. The barrels have an indented, screw-top lid that allows the water to slow and drop into the barrel. A screen in the lid prevents breeding mosquitoes and keeps debris out of the barrel. The screen can be easily cleaned. Compression fittings on the shoulders and at the spigot are more maintenance free than glue or tape that can fail over time. They are designed for underwater uses; the parts you choose to screw into them are interchangeable. With the barrel, ICPRB provides an 8-foot overflow hose (1 1/2 inch), an elbow, stainless steel screw clamp, screw-in plug, and a standard 3/4 inch brass spigot that will fit standard garden hoses. Barrels hold about 60 gallons and are about 3.5 feet tall and about 2 feet in diameter. The barrels hold about 60 gallons of water and are standard barrel size.

ICPRB is taking pre-orders online for spring 2009 rain barrels. If you have not purchased a barrel from ICPRB, you must register for a workshop in order to reserve/purchase a barrel. The workshops cover safety and maintenance of the barrels and provide valuable information about how the barrel can be used in your garden. You may also contact [Jennifer Willoughby](#) at 301.984.1908 x 109. Once you attend a workshop, there is no need to attend another to purchase more barrels. Workshops are open to all and free whether you purchase a barrel or not. Required workshops are offered on three dates in Frederick County, at Stadler Nursery on Mt. Zion Road: April 19th, May 2nd or May 24th from 10 – 11 am. Register on line.