



# Memorandum

## MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Reviewed by W. Manley Date 12/10/09  
General Manager

DATE: December 11, 2009  
TO: General Manager  
FROM: Public Education and Recycling Manager  
SUBJECT: Report on Public Education and Recycling Activities

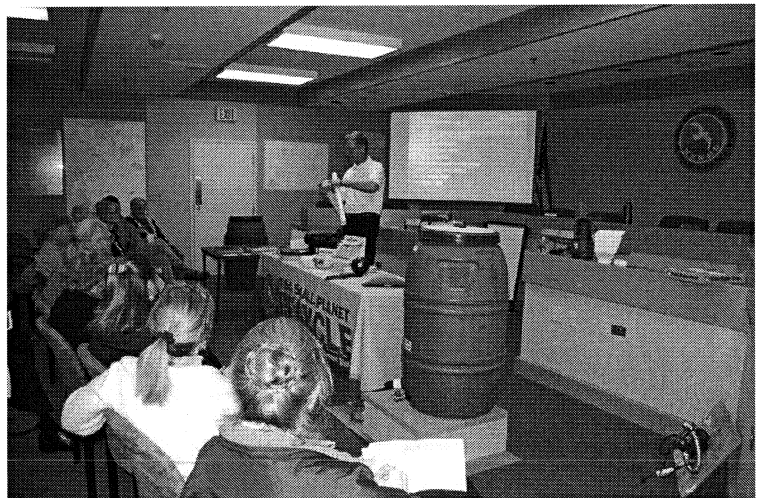
### District Sponsors First Rainwater Harvesting Workshop

Public Education Coordinator Kimberle Herring coordinated a public workshop on December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 10 a.m., to promote rain water storage utilizing reused plastic olive barrels. The workshop attracted a great deal of media and public interest. The original plan was to include 30 participants. Due to the strong public response, a second workshop was added in the afternoon and both morning and afternoon sessions totaled more than 100 attendees.

The District was assisted in producing these workshops by our "Green Team" volunteers, Roger Manley of Central Coast Rain Water Harvesting, CSUMB Senior Environmental Studies Students, Lanz Van Beurden and Laurie Sage, and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District.

Workshop participants learned how to retrofit reused 45-gallon plastic barrels, obtained locally from an olive importer, to catch rain water under a gutter. There were 30 barrels available, which participants were able to purchase through the Last Chance Mercantile to take home and put in use.

Staff from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District also attended the workshops and expressed interest in partnering with the District on future workshops or launching their own.



Roger Manley demonstrates the hardware used to retrofit an olive barrel to catch and store rainwater

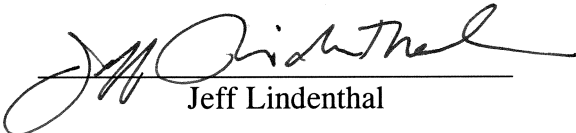
Two news stories, from the *Monterey County Herald Haven Magazine* and the *Monterey County Weekly*, highlighting the rainwater harvesting workshop are attached.

### **Holiday Waste Reduction Tips**

According to the California Integrated Waste Management Board, approximately 6 million tons more waste is produced nationwide between Thanksgiving and Christmas than any other time of the year. Remembering to reduce, reuse, and recycle, we can all help reverse this trend. For example, those pesky polystyrene packing peanuts (from that boxed gift that was shipped to you) that spill out on the floor can be kept out of the trash by bagging them up securely and dropping them off at any UPS shipping store which will reuse them. Many shippers have switched to using biodegradable corn starch peanuts in their boxes. These will typically dissolve overnight if left in a sink with water or they can be reused for more shipping. In our household, we keep a box of used wrapping paper, ribbons and bows that can be reused a second or third time; and try and capture it as gifts are opened (not an easy task when the kids are tearing into them). All that wrapping paper can also go in your curbside recycling bin if not suitable for reuse. Most of all, may the spirit of giving be with you this holiday season as well as the spirit of reducing, reusing, and recycling.

### **Strategic Planning Impact**

4b Program focus on public awareness, increased diversion of organics and commercial wastes, proper management of hazardous & prohibited materials, litter abatement, & sustainability.



Jeff Lindenthal

Attachments

*With higher Cal Am rates coming in January and heavy rainfall likely, this is a good time to look into your water collection & storage options*

# Harvesting The Rain

By KATHRYN MCKENZIE NICHOLS

CATCHING AND STORING RAINWATER has been the modus operandi for humankind for thousands of years, but leave it to modern man to find new ways of doing it.

Water-conscious Monterey County residents can choose from among a wide variety of water storage containers, ranging from simple rain barrels to artfully designed, ultra-skinny units that are well suited to tight spaces.

Renewed concern over the issue is now prompting homeowners to seek out methods of collecting these free liquid assets and then using the water during the dry months.

"There's a lot of interest," said rainwater harvesting consultant Roger Manley of Monterey, who has been getting the word out lately through free workshops and presentations. He'll lead a workshop Dec. 5 at the Monterey Regional Waste Management District in Marina, where locals can learn about how best to stockpile water in the winter and save it for when it's most needed.

At that event, participants will learn the ins and outs of home water collection, and also be eligible to purchase 55-gallon rain barrels made from recycled olive containers at a nominal cost — just \$30.

"They're no longer usable for olives, but they'll last a long time as a rain barrel," said Manley.

Manley himself reduced his own water usage by 75,000 gallons over the past year, and has three storage containers that can hold 1,600 gallons at home to collect water for his plants.

Not only is rainwater harvesting the eco-conscious thing to do, it can also save a lot of money. California American Water Company rates are going up in January to encourage residents to save water. Anyone who doesn't want to pay higher rates needs to conserve, find a different water source, or both.

Landscaping is notorious for sucking up vast quantities of water. The good news is that it's an easy

area in which to cut back, Manley said. By planting drought-resistant shrubs and taking a careful look at how much water is being used, it's possible to save thousands of gallons with little effort.

In past years, people have been put off the idea of rainwater collection because of the bulkiness of the storage tanks; that's all changing as new products come on the market.

"They don't have to be ugly," Manley says.

Take, for instance, the Rainwater Hog, which looks like a giant green Lego piece but is only 9 1/2 inches wide. The svelte building-blocks can be used either horizontally or vertically — think lining fences or stashed under floors — and linked together to provide additional storage.

Other slim entries in the field are made by Bushman USA and Waterwall Tanks, which are taller and thinner than traditional water tanks and can be set right next to the home.

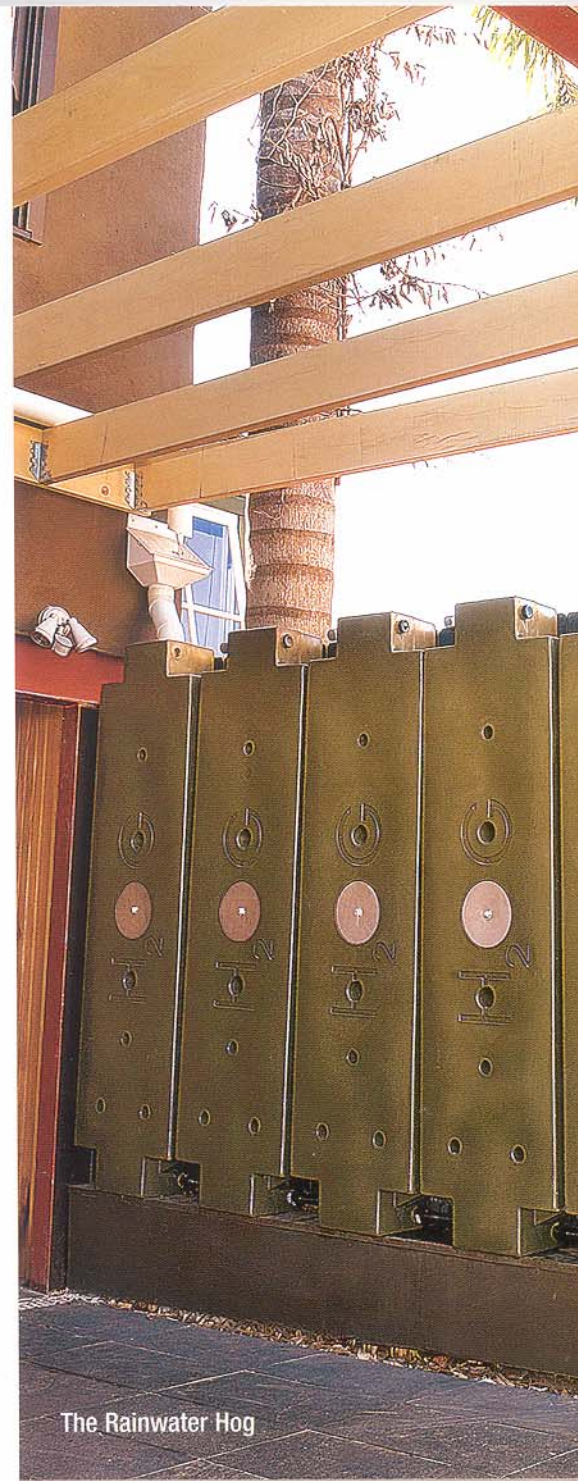
"They're more aesthetically pleasing," said Manley, and with a smaller footprint, are suitable for petite back yards.

Another option are "pillow tanks," which can be stuffed just about anywhere and filled, such as under a subfloor or a deck. There are also flexible rain barrels made by Tuff Tech Bags, originally developed for military applications and now adapted for the home market, Manley said.

Manley suggests that residents interesting in saving water contact Cal Am for free home water audits, and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, which offers rebates on water-saving appliances and cisterns — that's any kind of water storage unit — up to 3,000 gallons. Manley also has a Web site with useful information, Central Coast Rainwater Harvesting, at [www.ccrwh.com](http://www.ccrwh.com).

*For information or to register for the Dec. 5 workshop, call the Monterey Regional Waste Management District at 384-5313.*

Elements



The Rainwater Hog

A water conservation workshop conducting by rainwater harvesting consultant Roger Manley will be held December 5 at the Monterey Regional Waste Management District in Marina. For information or to register, call 384-5313.

# Let It Pour

## Local rainwater guru makes home water harvesting easy.

By Kera Abraham

Posted December 08, 2009

After a false start in October, the rainy season is finally kicking in this month, and Roger Manley wants to help locals tap the precious liquid running off our roofs.

During a free public workshop at Monterey Regional Waste Management District headquarters last Saturday, Dec. 5, Manley gave a broad overview of the water limitations facing the Monterey Peninsula. Cal Am rates are about to jump dramatically in the face of a cease-and-desist order from the state water board. The past few years have seen drought conditions. It's time to step up our conservation efforts, Manley said, and start collecting the water that falls naturally from the sky.

He reviewed the rainwater technology offered by his company, Central Coast Rainwater Harvesting, with systems running anywhere from several hundred to several thousand dollars. But he showed workshop participants how to make their own rainwater harvesting barrels for about \$30 each, demonstrating how to outfit a 55-gallon recycled olive barrel into a water collection tank to be placed under a gutter downspout.

The workshop proved to be highly popular. Although originally slated for 30 people, the morning workshop's attendance jumped to 50, and a long waiting list led organizers to add a packed afternoon session. Cistern rebates from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District bring the net cost of two barrels to about \$35.