

RainScapes Gazette

February 2012

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RainScapes Manuals Online!

The RainScapes Manuals are now available online for use in the county.

Link to: [The RainScapes Manuals](#)

The overview chapter explains what RainScapes are and why we need more! Each of the rebate approved techniques: Rain Gardens, Conservation Landscapes, Tree Canopy Replacement, Green Roofs, Pavement Removal, Permeable Pavers, Water Harvesting (Rain Barrels and Cisterns) and Dry Wells, has a chapter providing the following information:

- How to assess your property and evaluate siting of the technique
- How to design, plan and implement the technique
- Cost and maintenance
- Different applications of the RainScapes technique
- Benefits of installing the technique on your property
- Additional resources

Apply for RainScapes Rewards!

We encourage you to submit an application for the RainScapes Rewards Rebate Program in the FY2012 budget (budget year goes from July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012). We are halfway through the FY2012 budget cycle.

Link to: [RainScapes Rebate Program Information](#)

All rebate projects, except rain barrels, are required to be approved prior to installation to qualify for rebate funds. Approved projects should be complete within six months of approval from DEP (Department of Environmental Protection).

RainScapes Rewards Application are now in an interactive online format.

Link to: [RainScapes Online Application Form](#)

Please note, applications should ONLY be submitted using the online form. If you have difficulty accessing them, you can contact our RainScapes Program Staff at

rainscapes.application@montgomerycountymd.gov

Upcoming RainScapes Workshops at Brookside Gardens Registration Opens Tomorrow - February 14th!

The popular RainScapes Workshops for County residents are back! We offer three workshops: Rain Gardens, Rain Barrels and Conservation Landscapes Techniques.

- **Rain Garden Workshop**
Transform your yard into a natural ecosystem to help soil capture and filter rainwater. Learn the techniques to evaluate your yard and create a rain garden that uses native plants and enhanced soils to build a watershed-friendly garden full of beauty and life. Develop a planting plan and materials list to create your garden. Fee: \$10
 - Friday, March 9, 2012, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (#182150) **OR**
 - Saturday, March 10, 2012, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (#182151)

- **Make and Taken Rain Barrel Workshop**
Gather water from your rooftops, help control stormwater impacts from your yard and store water to use in your landscape. Learn about watershed health in the County and how you can help, starting at your own home. Rain barrel with fittings and easy instruction provided. **Limited to one rain barrel per household.** Remember to bring a vehicle large enough to carry a 55-gallon barrel home. Fee: \$10
 - Friday, April 20, 2012, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (#182100) **OR**
 - Saturday, April 21, 2012, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (#182101)

- **Conservation Landscaping Techniques**
Learn How conservation-based landscaping techniques can beautify your yard and neighborhood, restore native habitats, help improve the environment and save you time and money. Explore ways to replace traditional lawns with native landscapes to benefit our local streams and the Chesapeake Bay. Turf removal techniques will be explained, and a site design exercise tailored to each participant's yard will be developed, along with a shopping list. Fee: \$10
 - Friday, May 18, 2012, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (#18801) **OR**
 - Saturday, May 19, 2012, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (#18802)

Registrations for these three Spring workshops is through the Parks and Recreation Department online and can be found on pp 103 - 104 in the online guide.

Note: In order to register for Parks and Recreation classes you must have a ParkPass. It can take a few days for that pass to register, but it is free. Sign up for the ParkPass via the Montgomery County Parks Department. www.parkpass.org

Public Invited to County-Sponsored Community Clean Water Summit

Saturday, March 3, 2012, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Snow date - Sat., March 11, 2012)

Join us for the Community Clean Water Summit on Saturday, March 3, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (snow date Saturday, March 11, 2012). The Summit will take place at the Silver Spring Civic Building located at 1 Veterans Place, Silver Spring, MD, near public transportation. Meet people just like you working to make Montgomery County a cleaner

and healthier place. Interact with community organizations involved in the conservation of local streams. Learn how you can make a difference, make new friends and have fun!

Register for this free event at www.cleanwatersummitt.eventbrite.com. Space is limited. Door prizes include a REI three-season tent, rain barrels and more! (Must be present to win)

Native Plant Sales

- A partial list of sales and nurseries that sell native plants can be found at The Maryland Native Plant Society's website.
<http://www.mdflora.org/plantsales.html>
- **Brookside Gardens Edible and Native Plant Sale**
Saturday, May 5, 2012, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Brookside Gardens Visitors Center
Vist www.brooksidegardens.org for a complete plant list in early April

Brookside Gardens and the Montgomery Parks Community Gardens will offer a tantalizing selection of edible and native plants for sale, including:

- Unusual and hard-to-find vegetables
 - Herbs
 - Perennials
 - Shrubs
 - Trees
 - Vines
 - Pollinator host plants
-

Tree Care Notes

Now is the time to **PRUNE!** Eye your tree up close and from a distance; then follow the guidelines found in [The Tree Owner's Manual](#) (see pages 18 to 22).

New Book of Interest

[Rain Gardens: Sustainable Landscaping for a Beautiful Yard and a Healthy World](#)

Lynn Steiner and Robert W. Domm Voyageur Press, c. 2012 ISBN-13: 978-0-7603-4044-8