



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2010

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THE FARMINGTON RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION OFFERS RAIN BARREL WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA) is pleased to announce that it has teamed up with The New England Rain Barrel Company to offer residents rain barrels as a way to conserve water and help the environment. A rain barrel collects water from roof gutters when it rains and stores it for use during dry conditions. For a limited time, the rain barrels can be purchased by Connecticut residents for \$89.95 each, marked down off the retail price of \$119.95. In addition, The New England Rain Barrel Company will be offering Bio-Orb Composters \$99 marked down from \$129.95, with \$10 supporting FRWA.

The Bio-Orb® composter is a closed system, perfect for the urban or suburban gardener. No animals can get into it and is made of black plastic to absorb the heat and speed the breakdown of the compost. The plastic is 100% recycled and is made in Wisconsin, not in China or India as many other plastic compost bins are. It is quickly and easily assembled without tools. It can be rolled to speed up the making of compost and has a 13 cu. ft. capacity.

The average homeowner uses approximately 40% of their water for outdoor use, especially during the spring and summer months. A one inch rainfall on a 1,200 square foot roof will yield over 700 gallons of water. Using a rain barrel is an excellent way to conserve some of this water. A quarter inch run-off from an average roof will easily fill one 55 gallon rain barrel, but multiple barrels can also be joined for additional capacity. If you have 5 storms a season, that equals 275 gallons of free water. Rain barrels offer a way to both capture rainwater running off of roofs before that rain becomes stormwater, and to use that water for gardening or landscaping uses rather than relying on water drawn from a well or reservoir.

The rain barrels are made from blue recycled plastic containers with tops that do not come off, so no children or pets can get in the barrel. It has a six inch diameter inlet opening covered with a screened louver to keep insects and debris out. The barrels have 2 brass spigots; one to allow you to connect a hose for watering, and one for overflow. Homeowners can connect a hose to the overflow spigot and redirect the water as they wish (ideally to a place where it can sink into the ground and replenish local groundwater).

The company will be taking orders until a few days before the distribution date. The scheduled delivery and pick up of the rain barrels are as follows:

- April 17, 10 am - 1 pm, Whole Foods Market, Glastonbury, CT
- April 18, 10 am - 1 pm, Collinsville Canoe & Kayak, Bridge Street, Collinsville, CT
- June 12, 2009, 10 am – 1 pm, Granby Town Hall Complex, Granby, CT
- June 13, 10 am – 1 pm, Collinsville Canoe & Kayak, Bridge Street, Collinsville, CT

Each barrel comes with instructions on use and care, and a member of The New England Rain Barrel team will be available at the time of pickup to offer additional instructions. If you are interested in ordering a rain barrel or for further information, call The New England Rain Barrel Company at 877-977-3135 (toll free) and reference

the Farmington River Watershed Association's program, or order online at www.nerainbarrel.com. **It is advised that residents pre-order rain barrels although there will be a limited amount available on the day of the event.**

The event is coordinated by the Farmington River Watershed Association, a not-for-profit organization working to conserve and protect water quality and quantity, habitat and recreational access within the watershed. For more information on how you can help or on upcoming programs, please call FRWA at (860)-658-4442 or visit the website at www.frwa.org.

The Farmington River Watershed Association, founded in 1953, is a private, non-profit, conservation organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the 81-mile Farmington River and its 609 square mile watershed.

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