

DNREC's Conservation Programs Section to host rain barrel-building workshop April 14 in Blades as part of Reclaim Our River Program

BLADES – The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Conservation Programs Section within the Division of Watershed Stewardship will host a rain barrel-building workshop in conjunction with the Reclaim Our River Program from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 14 at Hardin Hall, 20 West 4th Street, Blades, DE 19973. Participation is limited and attendees are asked to preregister at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-rain-barrel-building-workshop-tickets-44369977798>.

Workshop participants will receive free rain barrel conversion kits, including a 55-gallon plastic drum to take home as a ready-made rain barrel. The workshop will open with a brief overview about the benefits of rain barrels, do's and don'ts in using them, and their assembly and maintenance. Workshop participants can choose to construct their own barrel with guidance, or request that a Conservation Programs Section or ROR member help them assemble their rain barrel. While the rain barrels are being put together, participants will also learn about watering native plants with them and about techniques for improving water quality.

This workshop is offered as part of the Reclaim Our River-Nanticoke Series, a program designed to bring more water quality-oriented events, workshops, and recreational opportunities to the Nanticoke Watershed. The ROR program offers information on reducing nutrient and sediment pollution

and improving water quality, promotes public access to waterways and provides recreational opportunities as a way to connect residents to their waterways and inspire them to make improvements. For more information on the ROR program, please visit <http://delawarewatersheds.org/>.

Rain barrels collect and store water from roofs and downspouts for future uses such as watering lawns, gardens, and house plants; cleaning off gardening tools; and washing your car. Using a rain barrel can help to lower water bills, particularly in the summer months, by collecting thousands of gallons of usable water a year. Rain barrels also play an important role in reducing water pollution and protecting our water resources by collecting the stormwater runoff from our homes before it reaches our local streams and rivers.

For more information on the workshop, please contact Philip Miller at 302-290-3578 or Philip.miller@delaware.gov.

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