



'Look to the Sky for Your Water Supply'

The Art of Rainwater Harvest is on Display at the Rainwater Revival

Speaker lineup offers ideas, inspiration and how-to's for capturing rainwater



"Deep in the Rainforest"
Painted by students of the National Art Honor Society at Dripping Springs High School; Vashti Bester, Mica Carson, Brandon Campos, Rachel Clarke, Jenna Cox, Kristin Kish, Shannon McCurdy, Rachel Meeks, Joey Rodan, Camile and Sophia Shroeder, and Morgane Xenos.

Functional works of art will join words of wisdom about rainwater catchment during the third annual Rainwater Revival, October 27 at the Boerne Convention Center.

In addition to the eight artistically interpreted rain barrels that will be auctioned off to raise funds for school water conservation programs, visitors at the free event will have the opportunity to hear a number of experts discuss all types of rainwater catchment and water conservation techniques.

The Revival offers practical lessons on how to estimate the water demand for your home or landscape, the amount of storage you'll need, questions to ask when interviewing installers, tips and tricks for the do-it-yourselfer, what's it really like to live on rainwater (hear from people who do), how to build a rain garden, the importance of riparian areas to the ecosystem, farm and ranch management for healthy ecosystems and much more.

"Just look to the sky for your water supply," said Karen Ford, a Hill Country public affairs executive who chairs the Rainwater Revival. "A mere one inch of water collected from 1,000 square feet of roof can yield 625 gallons of water that is free of sodium, chlorine and minerals – and doesn't come with a monthly water bill, either."

This free annual Hill Country traveling event is being held in Boerne for the first time this year. In addition to knowledgeable speakers, a number of vendors and professional installers will offer demos; kids will enjoy The Raindrop Stop for arts and crafts fun sponsored by HEB and of course, food and music will be part of the "revival" experience.

"Hill Country area artists donate their time and talent to design and paint beautiful rain barrels that will be auctioned off at the event," said Christy Muse, Executive Director of the Hill Country Alliance which sponsors the Rainwater Revival. "Funds raised from the art barrel auction go to Hill Country schools for rainwater and water conservation education projects. The designs, vibrant colors and 'personality' of the barrels are always a major draw at the Festival."

3rd annual Rainwater Revival is Saturday, Oct. 27, 2012, at Boerne Convention Center

Below is the speaker's line up for the 2012 Rainwater Revival; find more information and a sneak peak at the rain barrels by visiting www.rainwaterrevival.com.

2012 Rainwater Revival Schedule
Boerne Convention & Community Center
820 Adler Road, Boerne
10am to 4pm Saturday, October 27

- Two Stages will be alive throughout the day with speakers scheduled at 10a, 11a, 1p, 2p, 3p on each stage.
- Music by the Hot Texas Swing band on Stage #1 from noon to 1pm
- Rainwater harvest, conservation and eco-friendly vendors in the garden area all day
- Food and drink vendors to provide healthy, delicious foods
- Activities for kids in the Raindrop Stop Tent, sponsored by HEB

Stage #1: Boerne Conference Center Auditorium

10-11am *The Basics of RWH System Sizing & Pricing*

Weston Neiman, Native American Seed – Winner, 2011 Rain Catcher Award, TWDB

Weston will also speak to the benefits of native plants, how to build a rain garden, and general good-to-know information from a common sense designer/entrepreneur.

11am-Noon *Rainwater Homeowners & Business Users Panel*

John Kight, PE, moderator

Hear from a number of homeowners, both urban and rural, who live comfortably, happily and healthily on harvested rainwater. Learn about the realities of living and depending on rainwater.

Noon – 1pm *Music! Alex Dormont & the Hot Texas Swing Band*

1-2pm *RWH: Professionally Installed, Maintained and Inspected*

Billy Kniffen, ARSCA-accredited instructor, Texas AgriLife Extension, Menard County

There can be definite benefits to hiring an experienced rainwater harvest designer/installer, but it still helps to understand the basics of how a rainwater harvest system works and know what questions to ask.

2–3pm *Designing & Building for Sustainable Living*

Bill Aylor, FAIA, Lake Flato Architects, San Antonio

An architect with an internationally acclaimed and regionally focused architecture firm talks about sustainable design for the future and reducing your hydro and carbon footprints with style. You will also see why there's such buzz about the *Lake Flato Porch House*.

3-4pm *Groundwater 101 for the Layperson*

Micah Voulgaris, GM, Cow Creek GCD

Learn about the interdependent relationship between groundwater and surface water, how an aquifer works, the big responsibilities of groundwater conservation district and how drought and pressure from population growth affect our aquifers.

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Stage #2: Boerne Conference Center, Large Upstairs Meeting Room

10-11am *Land Stewardship & Rainwater for Wildlife*

Bill Armstrong, 38 years as a wildlife/rangeland manager and retired from TPWD

For landowners of all acreages, Bill will share the importance of livestock, wildlife and range management systems to build healthy ecosystems to slow runoff and hold water on your land.

11am-Noon *Your Remarkable Riparian*

Sky Lewey, Nueces River Authority, Director, Resource Protection & Education

What is a riparian area anyway? Learn about these special places on the landscape that catch and hold water in the land, catch sediment, dissipate floodwater energy and provide critical wildlife habitat. If you live on or near a creek or waterway, or just care about clean plentiful water, don't miss this talk on the importance of riparian function and the values it produces.

1–2pm *Rainwater Demand and Storage*

Paul Lawrence and Wade Kolb, Texas Rainwater Catchment Association

Learn about estimating water demand for your garden or your home through standard methodology and how to be stingy with your new resource. How much stored rainwater can sustain a particular use before it rains again? Also, find out about different storage cistern models, from medium to large, for your rainwater containment. Central Texas has many suppliers of rainwater containment vessels from which to choose.

2–3pm *Making Your Own Rain Barrel*

Bryan Davis, Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension

A hands-on how-to for do-it-yourselfers and wannabes, using simple materials from the local hardware store to build your own porch or downspout rainwater capture system.

3-4pm *Facts & Fiction of Rainwater Quality*

Adriana Dean and Gary Franklin, LCRA Environmental Lab Services

Learn about rainwater quality, how to maintain high quality in your storage system, some real-life stories from the testing lab, how to best test your water and how to manage for best quality.