



**-MEDIA ADVISORY-**

September 18, 2009

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Suzan Jervey, Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed, 614-546-7857  
Jonathan Meier, Rain Brothers, 614-424-0572

**Popular Rain Barrel Workshop Draws Green Crowd**

**WHAT:** Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed and Sierra Club have teamed up to share water saving ideas throughout central Ohio. On Sept. 21, a crowd will gather for a demonstration to learn how to use and install rain barrels, an environmentally friendly way to conserve and collect water for plants and outdoor use. Jonathan Meier from Rain Brothers will install a rain barrel in a location where the water will be used for a community garden. Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed will offer a cost share program for Columbus residents to purchase discounted rain barrels, thanks to funding provided by the City of Columbus. This year, 200 households have participated in rain barrel workshops.

An average house can collect roughly 560 gallons from a 1 inch rain storm. By recycling rain water, we can reduce utility bills and prevent pollution from stormwater runoff and sewer overflows. Rain water washes pollution into local waterways, including lawn chemicals, fertilizers, automotive fluids, and bacteria. Excessive rain water also overloads local sewer systems and can potentially cause sewer overflows and basement back-ups.

**WHEN:** Monday, September 21, 6-8pm

**WHERE:** The corner of Kossuth and 17<sup>th</sup> St., Columbus, 43206 (German Village)

**WHO:** Brandi Whetstone, Conservation Program Coordinator, Sierra Club Ohio Chapter  
Suzan Jervey, Program Assistant, Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed  
Jonathan Meier, Owner, Rain Brothers  
A crowd of 25-35 people gathering to attend the workshop

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