



For Immediate Release

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Rain Gardens: Reclaim Your Rain

What if you could conserve water, reduce your water bill, and help protect our waterways at the same time? Sound difficult? Having a well-watered flower garden does not have to be expensive. Nor do you have to ignore local or state restrictions on outdoor watering. All you need is a little bit of imagination and a rain garden. The Clean Water Campaign has partnered with local governments and the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service to present Rain Garden Workshops in January and February.

It has been estimated that 20-percent of water consumed by the average household is used outdoors. Rain gardens allow you to reduce your outdoor water use, keep a nice garden and save the money you would have spent on water to keep your landscape green. Rain gardens work by capturing run-off from your roof or drive way and diverting it to gardens and low-lying areas to slowly soak into the soil. After all, it's your rainwater, why not use it? An added benefit of rain gardens is that they reduce the amount of storm water runoff, and pollutants carried by runoff, that enters into local streams.

The workshop's speaker, Dr. Rose Mary Seymour of the University of Georgia Agriculture and Environmental Science Office in Griffin will present how to construct a rain garden and to identify what plants to select. The plants in the rain garden are both beautiful and helpful. They add color and interest to your landscape and serve as habitat for butterflies, birds and other wildlife. She will also cover how rain gardens create a more natural flow for stormwater and reduce the amount of stormwater that runs into storm drains.

The "How To" workshops will be offered in Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Atlanta, Fulton and Gwinnett. Registration for this **FREE EVENT** is *required*. To register or for details call one of the local contacts below or visit the Clean Water Campaign's Web site at www.cleanwatercampaign.com. The workshop schedule is as follows:

- **Jan 15- Cherokee County (6:30-8:00 p.m.)**
Location: R T Jones Memorial Library
Address: 116 Brown Industrial Pkwy, Canton, GA 30114
For more information, contact Kelley O'Brien at 404-463-3259
- **Jan 27- Clayton County (6:30-8:00 p.m.)**
Location: Clayton County Water Authority's Community Room
Address: 1600 Battle Creek Rd; Morrow, GA 30260
For more information, call Kim Zimmerman at 678-422-2838.
- **Jan 29- North Fulton (7:00-8:30 p.m.)**
Location: North Fulton Annex
Address: 7741 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30350
For more information, contact Corlette Dennard at 404-730-8097.
- **Feb 5- South Fulton (7:00-8:30 p.m.)**
Location: South Fulton Annex
Address: 5600 Stonewall Tell Road, College Park, GA 30349

For more information, contact Corlette Dennard at 404-730-8097.

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- **Feb 10- Cobb County (7:00-8:30 p.m.)**
Location: Cobb County Water Quality Lab Training Room
Address: 662 South Cobb Drive, Marietta, GA 30060-3105
For more information, call Jennifer McCoy at 770-528-1482.
- **February 25- Gwinnett County (7:00-8:30 p.m.)**
Location: Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center's Auditorium
Address: 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30045
For more information, contact Michael O'Shield at 678-376-7157
- **Feb 26- DeKalb County (6:30-8:00 p.m.)**
Location: DeKalb Cooperative Extension Service Training Room
Address: 4380 Memorial Drive, Decatur, 30032 (across from the Sheriff Department).
For more information, contact Majid Shirazi at 404-508-2513.
- **Apr 17- City of Atlanta (10:00-11:30 a.m.)**
Location: City Hall, 5th Floor Rooftop Garden
Address: 55 Trinity Ave., Atlanta, GA 30303
For more information, contact Diane Badger at 404-330-6817.

The Clean Water Campaign works to educate the public about activities that help prevent water pollution in the areas of landscaping and lawn care, auto service and repair, handling of household hazardous wastes, septic tank maintenance and more. It is a cooperative, multi-agency public education initiative spearheaded by 20 local governments in metro Atlanta and managed by the Atlanta Regional Commission. For more information about the Clean Water Campaign, contact Kelley O'Brien at 404.463.3259.

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