

Introduction to Rainwater Harvesting Workshop (Level 100)

General Course Content

ARCSA's Level 100 workshops are one day introduction courses open to anyone interested in learning more about rainwater harvesting in both outdoor and indoor applications. This course will provide an overview of rainwater harvesting, uses, and applicability to conserving rainfall as a natural resource. Concepts and techniques are introduced on harvesting rain passively in rain gardens, green roofs and water conservation through proper landscape designing all the way through a complex system with a catchment container and all the individual parts of a system. The design and installation from the roof to the faucet will be covered as well as discussion on optional uses for this precious resource. Where possible, systems will be constructed, displayed, and/or discussed. The cost to attend this workshop is \$50.

Please note that the exact times and topic order may vary slightly with each specific workshop. Relevant handouts or presentations will be provided on-site. Light breakfast and lunch will be included.

8:30 am - Check-In & Registration

9:00 am - Introductions

This session will provide the group an opportunity to introduce themselves and what they are hoping to learn from the course, and receive an overview of the course, its purpose, and structure. Participants will also hear a brief overview of who ARCSA is and their mission.

9:20 am - Water Issues and Future Needs

Water is an increasingly more critical resource that needs to be managed well. Current problems, trends and shortfalls will be discussed in a format that shows rainfall capture as one piece of the puzzle in solving our water issues.

9:35 am - Water Stewardship all across America

The first step to water sustainability is also the cheapest, and that is conservation. Conservation is the first, least costly, and easiest step in water stewardship. This session will discuss trends and techniques needed to reduce our water demand.

9:45 am - Passive Collection of Rainwater

Stormwater is an ever increasing problem with new construction and sealing over the sponge. Landscaping and stormwater management has to be addressed to maintain aquifer recharge, protect open bodies of water and streams from ever increasing pollutants. Rain gardens, bog gardens, storm chambers, green roofs and landscaping which captures water will be discussed in this session.

10:20 am - Collecting Rainwater - from "Rooftop to Faucet"

This will be the longest session and will cover roof top, gutters and downspouts, screens, filters, first flush, storage containers, pumps and other parts to make a system function effectively.

12:00 pm - Break for Lunch

1:00 pm - Use of Rainwater for Outdoor Use

Rainwater has lots of outdoor uses. This session will cover these uses and steps to construct and install a system that will supply rainwater for irrigation, water features/bird baths, pets, livestock, wildlife and green houses.

2:20 pm - Use of Rainwater for Indoor Use

Rainwater can be brought inside the home and used in certain situations for potable and non-potable use. Local codes will dictate what may apply to each location but this session will cover the process of supplying non-potable rainwater to commodes and clothes washers and potable use for the entire house.

2:50 pm - Rainwater Sanitation for Potable Usage

Proper sanitation is critical in providing rainwater for potable uses. Potential contaminants and, pathogens as well as alternative methods to controlling these concerns will be discussed in this session.

3:25 pm - Rainwater Collection System Maintenance

Without proper maintenance, a system will not stay safe or effective. This session will touch on major areas that require proper maintenance and the prevention of mosquitoes, algae, malfunctioning systems and potentially lost or unsafe water.

3:45 pm - Ouestions and Answers

Class will review the course content, and all participants are encouraged to participate in an open Q & A.

4:00 pm to 5:00 pm - Course Complete