

**American Rainwater  
Catchment Systems  
Association  
2009 Conference**

“Rainwater – The Forgotten Resource”

Decatur, GA

# Members eager to share lessons



# News from here to there

- Germany – Leading the way. Don't reinvent the wheel. Learn from their mistakes.
- Tucson, AZ - 12" average rainfall.
  - First in nation to quantify requirements.
  - Adopted commercial rainwater harvesting ordinance to meet 50% of landscape demand.
- Lessons learned:
  - Use demand driven requirements, not supply-driven
  - Start with outdoor requirements first
  - Make tanks optional
  - Encourage native plants

# More on ordinances

- Santa Fe, AZ - 14" average rainfall. New ordinances. New commercial and residential construction must install rainwater catchment systems.
- Lessons learned:
  - Ordinances need enforcement
  - Training and government buy-in
  - Establish design criteria, CEU's and maintenance follow up
  - Logging complaints

## New ideas and memorable quotes

- Atlanta, GA – 5 Seasons Brewing Company in Atlanta collecting rainwater to make beer.
- Converting unwanted swimming pools into cisterns.
- Tanks with narrow footprints
- “Create a living sponge in your garden” – Brad Lancaster, Tuscon, AZ
- “I never met anyone who felt their cistern was too big.” John Hammerstrom, Key Largo, FL

# Lessons on installation









**“You’ve got to plant the water before  
you plant the trees.”**





# Abundance



# Take away messages

- Think outside of the box, or in this case, barrel.
- Have a plan. Test it. Rework it before going live.
- Get the buy in from other organizations and governmental agencies.

## Note:

In 2009, Georgia drought condition was classified as extreme.

It started to rain the day the conference ended.

Flooding in Atlanta and Decatur made nationwide news within days of our departure.

Cisterns, rain barrels and well-prepared soils offset additional flooding.

Are we ready?



# Marin Municipal Water District News

SPAWN will meet with over 60 Marin Municipal Water District customers to assist and educate them about rainwater catchment.

As a pilot program, four rainwater catchment cisterns will be installed in public locations within our service area.

Residential workshops, professional training and materials will be available for educational purposes.

You are invited...





# Save the dates.

Join Billy Kniffen, Tim Pope, and other pros for:

- ARCSA conference in the North Bay
  - January 19<sup>th</sup> – public workshop
  - January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> – Certification program
- College of Marin – Indian Valley Campus, Ignacio, CA

**Thank You**

