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### » **Welcome to Summer!**

Summer is here and the days are getting hotter and drier -- so we're dedicating this June issue (as well as the July issue) of the Greenscapes e-newsletter to irrigation! If your lawn sprinkler is being used for more than just cooling off the kids on these hot days, these newsletters are just for you.

Keep reading this issue to learn more about town watering restrictions that might affect you, rainwater harvesting, and special offers on sprinkler timers. And stay tuned for next month's issue which will feature automatic irrigation systems.

This summer, you don't have to excessively water your lawn to keep it healthy and beautiful. Let us help you save time, money and water -- before the next time you turn on the sprinkler, check out our Greenscapes [recommendations](#)

[for lawn irrigation](#) and our special [tips just for those with automatic irrigation systems](#).

Here's to a wonderful summer season!

~ [Wendy Garpow](#), Greenscapes Central Management  
Assistant Director, Massachusetts Bays Estuary Association

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#### **Coalition Notes: South Shore**

Several Greenscapes special offers remain in effect throughout the summer months! Take advantage of these money-saving opportunities, and save water as well! Offers include Irrigation System Audits, On-Site Greenscapes Consultations, Sprinkler Timers, and a 15% discount at participating nurseries on selected Greenscapes plants. Please [visit our website to learn more about these money saving offers](#).

~ [Julie Uhler](#), Greenscapes South Shore Manager  
North and South Rivers Watershed Association

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#### **Coalition Notes: North Shore**

We continue to enjoy hearing from people as to how they are using the Greenscapes principles. We love to hear how people are changing their practices and trying new ways to garden. Let us know what is working for you and what is not. There will be another workshop in July on Irrigation and one more in August on Basic Lawn Care. We hope people can make the time to attend these informative workshops.

~ [Barbara Warren](#), Executive Director, Salem Sound Coastwatch  
On behalf of member organizations of the [Greenscapes North Shore Coalition](#)

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#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

##### **[Free Workshop: Water Conservation Matters \(Click to Register\)](#)**

When: Tuesday, July 17, 2007 (7:00 PM - 9:00 PM)

Presenters: **Ted Moriarty, Smart Watering Company and Phil Reidy, Rainwater Recovery Inc.**

Location: **Middleton Historical Society, Pleasant Street, Middleton MA (behind the library)**

Find out the latest about irrigation systems and products, and learn what works and what doesn't work for lawn care and water conservation. See how fully integrated rainwater harvesting systems are being used to address stormwater management and water conservation needs.

##### **[NOFA Organic Lawn and Turf Course \(Click for more info & registration\)](#)**

**When: August 14, 2007 (8:00 am to 5:00 pm.)**

**Presenters: Donald Bishop of Gardens Are ..., Mike Nadeau of**

**Plantscapes, Inc., Chip Osborne of Lassana Osborne Natural Lawn & Turf Company, Thomas Akin of the USDA's NRCS, and Dr. Kimberly Stoner of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station.**

**Location: Marblehead High School, Marblehead MA**

The NOFA Organic Land Care Program, a project of the Massachusetts and Connecticut chapters of the Northeast Organic Farming Association, is offering this one-day, intensive Organic Lawn and Turf Course, co-sponsored by the Greenscapes North Shore program. The course will provide state-of-the-art information for managing lawns and turf organically and will include first-hand tours of Marblehead's organic athletic fields and of The Living Lawn Project, a local demonstration organic lawn, just minutes from the school. In addition, the course includes hands-on demonstrations of lawn/turf equipment and materials, and a local, organic lunch. The course is open to all land care professionals and groundskeepers for educational institutions and municipalities who are responsible for the establishment and care of grass. For more information, visit [www.organiclandcare.net](http://www.organiclandcare.net), email program coordinator Kathy Litchfield at [kathylitch29@yahoo.com](mailto:kathylitch29@yahoo.com) or call (978) 724-0108.

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### **Watering Restrictions:**

#### **Is there one in your town?**

Summer rainshowers can be few and far between, and many of us are supplementing by watering our lawns. Do you know if your Town has enacted any watering restrictions that might affect you? [Find out by checking our website!](#)

Why do towns implement watering restrictions? Because water is our most precious natural resource. Our communities require adequate supplies at all times for human consumption and fire protection. In the summer months, this supply can be severely threatened because too much water is being used to irrigate lawns. Do your part to protect your community's water supply so there is enough water for drinking and fire protection. People are more important than lawns -- if your town has implemented a watering ban ([see our website](#)), be sure to comply with all regulations.

Watering restrictions don't necessarily mean your lawn will become brown or die. By following our recommendations for lawn care in the [2007 Greenscapes Guide](#), you can have a healthy, beautiful lawn throughout the summer.

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#### **The ABCs of Rainwater Harvesting**

By Guest Columnist Philip Reidy, P.E.,  
Principal, [Rainwater Recovery, Inc.](#)

Capturing rainwater as a source of fresh water has been practiced since the earliest evidence of human activity. Today, we simply practice the same concepts with different needs and capabilities.

Rainwater harvesting is the collection of rain off of some surface like a roof,

known in the industry as a “catchment” or “catchment area”, and directing it via downspout, pipe or channel to a storage container or “cistern”, where it accumulates and can be used for various purposes. Most harvesting systems have some form of filtration before the cistern.

How the water is intended to be used defines not only filtration and/or treatment requirements, if any, but also whether the water can be accessed via a simple drain valve which allows water to drain from the cistern under the force of gravity (such as with a simple rainbarrel), or whether it is delivered from the storage under pressure generated by an electric powered pump. Today, the majority of harvesting systems used for irrigation are powered by pumps and related equipment that can range from the simplest of pumps all the way to multi-source pump works with valves and electronic controllers designed by mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineers.

Basic harvesting systems for garden watering usually have a pump and basic controller to allow the system to function like a typical hose spigot on your home; systems designed to support larger demands such as automatic underground irrigation systems will have somewhat more elaborate pump and controller requirements, the configuration of which is usually dependent on the objectives and requirements of a particular project. Generally, these larger systems are designed to function without user input or interaction.

Cistern storage is divided into two primary types – either at grade (tank at ground surface) or below ground. In general, above-ground cisterns for garden and yard use are appropriate for installations where the cistern will be connected to a single roof downspout and the storage required is less than about 1,000 gallons. For applications above 800 – 1,000 gallons, and where multiple downspouts or collection areas will be captured, underground storage is usually preferred or required.

Special attention needs to be paid to the volume capacity and type of storage container (cistern) required for a particular system, because this is often the predominant cost in a harvesting system. Establishing the “right” size of a cistern for a particular system or project can be driven by cost, space constraints, aesthetic concerns, or by an analysis of water collection opportunity and usage requirements referred to as a Water Budget Analysis. This is a task that is best done by engineers with expertise in rainwater harvesting systems.

Rainwater harvesting is an excellent way to conserve water while still having the ability to irrigate your landscape. Whether you do it at your home via a simple rainbarrel or use an automated cistern system, there are many benefits to be enjoyed. To learn more about rainwater harvesting and cistern systems, please visit [www.rainwaterrecovery.com](http://www.rainwaterrecovery.com).

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### **Save \$100 on a Rainwater Recovery System**

As much as 55,000 gallons of rain falls on a 2,000 square foot roof in Massachusetts each year. Underground cisterns will collect clean rainwater from your roof so you can stockpile it when it's plentiful and use it later during a

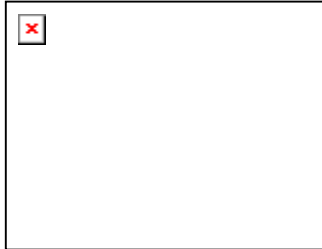
drought.

Rainwater Recovery™ offers various types of underground cisterns that captures rooftop runoff and stores it for outdoor use. Harvesting systems can range from simple modular tanks with manually activated pumps (connected to outdoor spigots) to very large underground vaults with fully automated delivery systems. Systems start at \$1500. Visit [Rainwater Recovery](#) or call 781-647-9500 for more information.

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### **Water Your Lawn at Dawn:**

#### **Save \$37.50 on a Programmable Sprinkler Timer!**



Watering your lawn at dawn is the best time for the health of your landscape and to conserve water. If you are not an early riser or do not have an automatic irrigation system, you can buy a programmable sprinkler timer and attach it to your outdoor faucet.

Orbit and the Greenscapes Program make it simple!

Buy an [Orbit™ digital timer](#) for just \$25.00 ([Model 62075](#), retail \$62.50) by sending a check to: North and South Rivers Watershed Association (attn: Sprinkler Timers), P.O. Box 43, Norwell MA 02061. Please include a note with your name and address. Questions? Contact [Julie Uhler](#) at NSRWA (phone: 781-659-8168).

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### **Greenscapes Coalition**

The 2007 Greenscapes program is a multi-partner outreach effort sponsored by the [Massachusetts Bay Estuary Association](#), [Massachusetts Bays Program](#), [North and South Rivers Watershed Association](#), [Eight Towns & the Bay Committee](#), [Salem Sound Coastwatch](#), [Ipswich River Watershed Association](#), and many other [sponsors](#) and [supporters](#). Participating communities in the 2007 Greenscapes program include: Andover, Beverly, Boxford, Cohasset, Danvers, Duxbury, Essex, Georgetown, Gloucester, Hamilton, Hanover, Hingham and Hull (Aqarion Water Company), Ipswich, Kingston, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Marshfield, Middleton, Newbury, Newburyport, Norwell, Peabody, Pembroke, Pinehills Water Company (Plymouth), Plymouth, Salem, Salisbury, Scituate, Topsfield, Wenham and Weymouth. Coalition partners have also received generous grant assistance for the 2007 program from the [EPA Targeted Watershed Grant for Ipswich River Restoration](#), the Louisa Conrad Bequest of the North Shore Garden Club, MA Department of Environmental Protection, Massachusetts Environmental Trust, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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