

\*\*\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

For immediate release, April 2, 2012 - contact: Bob Lewis 301-862-3517

## Free Rain Garden Workshop & Installation

—Learn how to do-it-yourself and save up to \$3,200!

Every time it rains pollutants are washed from rooftops, roadways, driveways, and sidewalks into our waterways. Even the raindrops themselves carry pollutants such as heavy metals and nitrogen, which end up in our streams and Chesapeake Bay. That's why it is so important to arrest the flow of storm water in our landscape.

The rain garden is the most effective way to stop runoff, and it can also provide a pleasing visual amenity to your yard. A well-designed rain garden allows water to be absorbed into the ground within a day or two, thereby cleansing it of those undesirable pollutants. Mosquitoes are unable to breed in such systems as they need standing water for longer periods of time.



The St. Mary's River Watershed Association and Maryland Sea Grant Extension are holding a free workshop and installation of a rain garden on Saturday April 21 in St. Inigoes. Attendees will learn how to locate, design, install, and maintain an effective rain garden. Soils in St. Mary's County are usually ideal for rain gardens, but not every site can support one. Attendees will learn how to test their soils and what other storm water devices might work when a rain garden just isn't feasible or appropriate.

The rain garden workshop and installation will begin at 9 AM and run for most of the day. Registration is required; call 301-862-3517 or email [info@stmarysriver.org](mailto:info@stmarysriver.org). Registrants will be provided with directions to the site. This volunteer event is an excellent way to fulfill community service hours. Rain date – April 28 (also if the ground is too wet).

For more information, contact us at [info@stmarysriver.org](mailto:info@stmarysriver.org) or visit our web site at <http://www.smrwa.org>.



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