



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

## MEDIA ADVISORY

April 24, 2012

**CONTACT:**

**Gabe Margasak**

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 670-1245

[www.sfwmd.gov/news](http://www.sfwmd.gov/news)

follow us on 

### **Water Conservation Project Turns Septic System Into Irrigation Cistern**

*Conservation is critical to protect water resources*

**WHAT:** The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will join its partners in Martin County and the University of Florida IFAS to mark the transformation of an abandoned septic system into a water-saving cistern for landscape irrigation.

Led by Martin County, the collaboration will help foster a shared water conservation ethic, reduce nutrient runoff and lessen the demand on the public water supply for irrigation. Rio was chosen for the pilot program because many homes in the area may be converting from septic systems to the regional sewer network in the near future.

The project was funded in part by the Indian River Lagoon license plate program and included development of a “how to” guide for homeowners who may want to accomplish a similar transformation.

Rain harvesting has been traced back more than 3,000 years and is in use across the world. In Florida, a half-inch of rain falling on a 2,000-square-foot, single-family home will produce 500 gallons of water for harvesting. An average septic tank can hold from 750 to 1,300 gallons of water.

For more information, see [Quick Facts on Rain Harvesting](#).

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 25, 2012

**TIME:** 10 a.m.

**WHERE:** Rio Civic Center  
1255 N.E. Dixie Highway  
Jensen Beach

(Parking will be available across the street from the Civic Center accessed via Anchorage Drive.)

# # #

**About the South Florida Water Management District**

*The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state’s five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.*