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News Around the World

[Water: The Forgotten Impact? Understanding water use, measurement and management](#)

Sustainable Business Magazine

[ICC Works with California Assemblyman on Rainwater Capture <http://t.co/HezwOAVD> #ICC #California](#)

California

[Bangalore residents start digging sumps and installing rainwater harvesting systems](#)

The Times of India

[Rainwater Harvesting Systems: Optimizing the Use of Rainwater](#)

Melodika.net

[Help pouring in from sky](#)

Deccan Herald

[Pentair, Watertronics promote rainwater harvesting and](#)

American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association

June 2012 E-News

ARCSA congratulates the newest Accredited Professionals!

- Brent Schofield
- Justin Rogers
- Kurtis Rentz
- Peter Byrne
- Susan McDaniel
- John Shieds

ARCSA Technical Symposium

September 10 & 11, 2012

**DoubleTree by Hilton
Raleigh Brownstone - University**

[reuse](#)

Filtration+Separation.com

[The wettest April in history helps E.ON reduce it's water footprint](#)

EnvironmentExpert.com

[Raindrops keep falling ... on my shed](#)

Donegal Democrat, Ireland

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**CALIFORNIA**

Daniel Elmslie, Microbe-Farmer

Robyn Cooper, Microbe-Farmer

Jake Aalfs

Jesse Froehlich

Nicole Oblad, National Storage Tank, Inc.

Jon Ramsey, Cistern Solutions

GEORGIA

Richard Dutro, Total Systems Commissioning, Inc

ILLINOIS

Soren Jensen, Xylem Inc/Jensen

KANSAS

Griff Hawkinson

MICHIGAN

Rodney Burlett

NEW MEXICO

Mary Johnston

SOUTH CAROLINA

Douglas Rackley

TEXAS

William Kamuthu

Michael Orsak

Paul Sumrall, Rice Construction Company

Bob Shonk, Senox

Larry McCrary, JMAC Builders LLC

VIRGINIA1707 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, North Carolina**Sunday, September 9: ARCSA Committee Meetings****Monday & Tuesday, September 10-11: general sessions****Wednesday & Thursday, September 12-13: tours, ARCSA 150, Accredited Inspector, and 200 level workshops****Friday & Saturday, September 14-15: ARCSA 300 level workshops****Symposium Fees****ARCSA Members**

Early \$200 (prior to August 15, 2012)

Regular \$295 (after August 15, 2012)

On-site \$395

Non-members

Early \$295 (prior to August 15, 2012)

Regular \$345 (after August 15, 2012)

On-site \$425

See the ARCSA website for registration and sponsorship.**Call for Speakers has been extended to June 22, 2012.****ARCSA New Board of Directors****ARCSA 2012 Annual Membership Meeting & Election****Notice to Members - Current Schedule for Electronic Voting**

The American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA) Annual Membership Meeting will be held on September 11, 2012 at the 2012 Annual ARCSA Conference. The purpose of the Membership Meeting is to conduct elections of the Board of Directors for those Directors whose terms have expired and to discuss other business of the Corporation with the Membership. Members that would like to participate in the future direction of ARCSA should fill out a [Self Nomination Form](#) found on the ARCSA website, Members Only section, Corporate Documents, by July 1, 2012.

Members who are in good standing on July 26, 2012 are eligible to vote in the 2012 Board of Directors election. The biographical information for this year's nominees will be available on the webpage for review on August 8, 2012. Electronic voting will open on August 9, 2012.

Members will have four (4) methods in which they can cast their vote. The first is through ARCSA's Electronic Voting System. Members with valid email addresses will receive an email and be able to vote electronically between August 9, 2012 and September 11, 2012. The second method is with a mail-in ballot for those Members who do not receive an electronic ballot. The mail-in ballot

John Grills

WISCONSIN

Rich Rehberg

INDIA

K. Panigrahi

is due on or before September 6, 2012. The third method is to cast your vote in person at the Annual Membership Meeting. The fourth method is through the use of a [Proxy form](#) if the Member is unable to attend the Annual Membership Meeting.

Have you read the ARCSA quarterly newsletter?

Join ARCSA

ARCSA Announces Continuation of The Rainwater Harvesting Master Professional Program

Rainwater Harvesting Master (RWHM)

As announced last month, ARCSA's "Rainwater Harvesting Master" Program is available for existing and future ARCSA AP's that desire to reach the peak of professional rainwater recognition. To attain this status you must fulfill the following requirements:

1. ARCSA current membership.
2. ARCSA current Accredited Professional designation.
3. 42 hours of additional instruction.
4. Complete the Design and Construction Workshop.
5. Pass the take-home problem.
6. Have completed the design and/or construction of 5 rainwater collection systems, after attaining AP status.
7. Pay the \$150.00 application and testing fee.
8. Pass a closed book RWHM test with a minimum score of 80%.
9. To maintain this professional status a RWHM will need to acquire at least 8 CEU's annually and pay an annual administrative fee of \$25.00.

ARCSA is pleased to announce the Take-home test is available on the ARCSA On-line Store for download and the application fee for the closed book exam is now available, please inquire at info@arcsa.org. Additionally, a form will be provided to record your 5 rainwater collection systems for those that are ready to start their RWHM submittal. ARCSA will offer the RWHM closed book exam for the first time at the 2012 Annual Conference.

Code Committee Slow to Embrace RWH Technology

by George Edward Van Giesen III, ARCSA Board Liaison & SE Regional Representative

ARCSA members are confident rainwater harvesting (RWH) is a mature, if not ancient, technology offering sustainability advantages to an increasingly thirsty world, but for many plumbing code regulators it's still largely unproven, untested and unloved. The

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS WITH ARCSA!!

Are you looking for ways to get your company name, product or service out in the RWH Industry? Contact Heather Kinkade at info@arcsa.org or call the ARCSA office at (512) 617.6528.

The Mission of the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association is to promote sustainable rainwater harvesting practices to help solve potable, nonpotable, stormwater and energy challenges throughout the world.

need for education was never more evident. At least that's my take as an ARCSA representative attending the International Code Council's (ICC) 2012 Code Development Hearing by the International Plumbing Code (IPC) Technical Committee in Dallas in May.

I believe several committee members may have left with new insights into RWH's promise to rescue the 21st century from dwindling hydrologic resources, energy-inefficient and large scale water supply systems and outdated plumbing codes that require all water to be of EPA drinking quality while more than 80% goes for non-potable uses.

Approximately 230 code change proposals were submitted to the IPC Technical Committee. While only a small number of these amendments related directly to rainwater harvesting, they are of extreme importance to the future of this emerging technology.

Present at the hearings were industry leaders, local/state code officials, manufacturers and private sector engineers. Those interested in seeing that the developing codes are written in a thoughtful and constructive way are always welcome to attend. This is one of the ways that our open, pluralistic society functions. Codes are underlying elements in our everyday lives and the public is generally unaware of their presence.

While elected lawmakers do not create what is developed in these hearings, the codes are enforceable by law and have broad implications in our society. Committee actions are checked and balanced by the ICC voting members at the Final Action Committee hearing set for Portland, OR in October 2012. There, the members, through their voting privileges, moderate and influence potential code changes in a continuation of the code development process.

The 2012 Code Development Hearings produce provisions that will be used in the 2015 edition of the International Plumbing Code. Amendments to plumbing codes submitted by the public in late 2011 were reviewed and debated by the experts on the IPC Technical Committee. Supporters were allowed to offer testimony and defend their amendments; opponents were heard, too. Rebuttals to opposition were permitted, as well.

The 20 person Technical Committee serves as the primary judge in the process, but not without checks. Floor actions allow voting members to cast their votes and express disapproval of committee decisions. A small number of these floor measures were invoked and one in particular served the interests of the rainwater harvesting community by overturning a poor decision coming from the Technical Committee.

Rainwater harvesting was perceived as an unproven and untested technology by a majority of members of the Technical Committee due to their lack of practical experience and solid information. This perception couldn't be further from the truth, as is evidenced by the vast number of rainwater harvesting projects in the US and abroad.

There are over 50,000 potable systems, more than 200,000 non-potable systems and over half a million rain barrels in use, according to Billy Kniffen, ARCSA Educational Chair.

This misconception persisted throughout the debate despite the fact that nearly all of Chapter 7 of the International Green Construction Code (IgCC, a formal document recently released by the ICC) is specifically dedicated to RWH. The provisions in the IgCC were vetted over two years through a similarly rigorous process used for the IPC. The Technical Committee expressed deep trepidation about the role of the document and its place in the IPC. This misunderstanding as to the fundamental nature of rainwater harvesting by this committee underscores the need to raise awareness of it in the regulatory community.

One of the ways to counter these misconceptions and separate fact from fiction is to be present in these hearings and to testify on behalf of amendments that affect rainwater harvesting. Without putting forth this effort, wider adoption and implementation of rainwater harvesting will occur at a much slower rate, leading to fewer ensuing business opportunities.

It is critical that we are represented at these hearings to counter unfounded claims made by members of the committee. Fortunately, I was joined and supported by two representatives of the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Ed Osann from the Santa Monica office and Karen Hobbs of the Chicago office. Both Karen and Ed have been tireless supporters of rainwater harvesting. Together, we cosponsored one of the rainwater amendments and worked behind the scenes on another.

The first one was an amendment to incorporate Chapter 7 of the IgCC into the main body of the IPC. It failed to pass the committee vote, but was voted on as a floor amendment and ultimately passed. ICC rules dictate that whenever floor action is invoked to override committee actions, the resulting amendment automatically goes to the Final Action Committee. Then, the amendment must be approved by a two-thirds vote.

The other amendment was to change a provision in the IPC that deals with allowing the disconnection of rooftop and surface drains from the storm sewer system. It failed to pass, having been ruled out of order due to a procedural flaw in its formatting. We were forced to defend a weaker version. We found a silver lining as we were able to test the reaction of the committee and gauge the depth of understanding, or lack thereof, concerning rainwater harvesting. We had considerable support from the floor for this amendment and it stimulated one of the longer discussions within the committee during its hearing.

The amendment will now go back for public comment and will be put to a vote by the Final Action Hearing in October. This may be a blessing in disguise because the amendment needed some polishing, which can be done through public, formal comment. This extra time will allow us to gather additional support from other interested

parties so that we can ensure the best chance of success.

Both of these provisions when, or if, passed will have a sweeping effect on the plumbing codes in all 35 states that use the IPC. As has been evidenced by all of the time and effort exerted by the ICC, it is in their best interest that these two amendments pass. They do not want to be left behind by the other major code writing body in the United States, the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO).

Only after rainwater harvesting provisions enter into the main body of the IPC, will architects, engineers and contractors have the regulatory guidance needed to advance this emerging technology. It cannot be emphasized strongly enough how important it is to get these provisions correctly placed into the IPC in this code cycle.

At this point in time, the only way that a vast majority of IPC states will have access to reasonable codification of rainwater harvesting is by adopting all or part of Chapter 7 of the IgCC and incorporating it into the main body of the IPC. If this does not happen, then each IPC state will have to develop its own individual rainwater harvesting provisions. Such an outcome runs the risk of being scattered and much more difficult for ARCSA or its allies to influence. Working on the codes on a national level, is the most cost-effective way to have our voices heard. Good Codes Drive Good Business.

One of the most important results of the hearings is that we identified several strong allies from the realm of building inspectors. Working together, we can introduce the best language possible for inclusion into the main body of the IPC dealing with rainwater harvesting. There appears to be a ground swell of support for the development of non-potable water sources. This is a clear sign that RWH is entering the mainstream.

ARCSA will advance the cause of rainwater harvesting by guiding the codes and developing consensus with our allies in the regulatory and architectural/engineering community.

As is evidenced in states that have existing rainwater harvesting codes on the books (North Carolina, Georgia and Texas, among others), the presence of these rules and regulations is directly linked to our members' ability to do business. Our future looks bright as we maintain our leadership in this vital process. I am looking forward to the final hearings in Portland and hope to give you all a positive report.

George Edward Van Giesen III lives in Athens, GA, is Public Policy Coordinator at BRAE/ Watts Water Technologies and may be reached via email at vangig@watts.com. Eddie lives, breathes and eats rainwater and is passionate on the subject.

ARCOSA Quarterly Newsletter

Members Only

ARCOSA has recently changed its quarterly newsletter to an electronic format to help meet its sustainability goals of reducing the use of paper. The Members Only Newsletter is available for Spring 2012. The Summer 2012 will be available on the website in July. Please visit the Members Only section of the ARCOSA website to read your latest newsletter.

Members please check your members profile to make sure all your information is up to date and do not forget to provide your yearly CEUs. Lifetime Members that are APs must also provide a yearly maintenance fee and updated CEUs.

RWH WORKSHOPS & ACCREDITATION COURSES

2012 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Location	Month	Days	Level	Sponsor
Vancouver BC	June	25 - 26th	200	Canadian Association of Rainwater Managers (CANARM)
Dallas TX	June	26 - 27th	200	Texas A&M University
Dallas TX	June	28 - 29th	300	Texas A&M University
Santa Rosa CA	July	28th	100	Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership Water Agency
Santa Rosa CA	July	30 - 31st	200	Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership
Santa Fe NM	Aug	3 - 4th	200	City of Santa Fe Water Conservation Office
Santa Fe NM	Aug	5 - 6th	300	City of Santa Fe Water Conservation Office
Seattle WA	Aug	14 - 15th	200	Snohomish County
Seattle WA	Aug	16 - 17th	200	Snohomish County
Raleigh/Durham NC	Sept	12th	150	ARCOSA Annual Conference
Raleigh/Durham NC	Sept	12 - 13th	200	ARCOSA Annual Conference
Raleigh/Durham NC	Sept	13th	AI	Accredited Inspector Class
Raleigh/				

Durham NC Sept 13 - 300 ARCSA Annual Conference
14th

If you are interested in hosting or sponsoring an ARCSA workshop, please contact the ARCSA Education Coordinator at education@arcsa.org.

American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association
Phone (512) 617.6528 Email info@arcsa.org Web www.arcsa.org

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