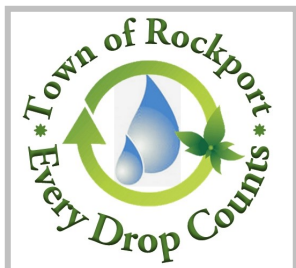




# Garden Club News

Rockport Garden Club, February 2023



## Rain Barrel Program

We all remember last summer, when state-wide drought conditions brought water bans to Rockport, taking some of us by surprise. Restricted days, hours and methods for outdoor watering was a critical way for the Town of Rockport to conserve our water supply and make sure there was enough water for basic services and emergency situations (who can forget the wildfires?). The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection estimates that outdoor tasks like watering lawns and gardens typically make up about 40% of household water use in the summer.

But we love our trees, plantings and gardens. We were resourceful about making every effort to save these important contributors to the health of our planet. We learned that our soapy dishwater was just fine for our gardens, and if there was a little extra food debris in it - so much the better. Just think of the nutrients we were adding to the soil!

This year, the Rockport Garden Club is joining with many other communities in Massachusetts by promoting a new (for us) water conservation program - using rain barrels. Rain barrels connect to your downspout and store water for use in your garden. By diverting rainwater runoff, you're collecting a healthy, chemical-free water source for plants and gardens, while minimizing runoff which needs to be processed in our water treatment plant.

The RGC has worked with the Town of Rockport to

participate in The Great American Rain Barrel Program (TGARB). TGARB is a Massachusetts company



that has been delivering barrels since 1990 and delivered more than 100,000 barrels nationwide. The rain barrels are repurposed 60 gallon food grade shipping drums used to transport

olives from Spain to the United States. Barrels will be offered to community members for a discounted price of \$84.00-\$89.00. Here is what included in the purchase price:

- Plastic spigot threaded for hose connection
- Two Overflow fittings
- 39" ID flex tube for overflow
- Drain plug
- Insect screen to keep water clear of debris
- Choice of spigot port 4 or 14 inches from ground – you install spigot

What is not included is a save the rain diverter which is offered in two sizes priced at \$30.00 and \$35.00. and polished stones. The website offers instructional videos to explain how to install the barrel in your home.

The barrels will be delivered to the Transfer Station's upper parking lot on April 15th for pickup. The barrels must be ordered online by April 2nd to participate. Visit: [www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/](http://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/) and select Town of Rockport.

By Karen Wise