



IRHA International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance

Alianza Internacional para la Gestión del Agua de Lluvia (IRHA)

Alliance Internationale pour la Gestion de l'Eau de Pluie (IRHA)

bRAINstorming

NEWSLETTER N° 37 – APRIL 2011

Our newsletter focuses on all activities concerning rainwater harvesting, the International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA) and its partners.

Topic of this issue: Private Sector Members



Editorial

Dear Rainwater Harvesters, Readers, IRHA Members and Friends,

The work of our Private-Sector Members is very important, and so for this edition of bRAINstorming we are focusing on some of their achievements and services.

The IRHA considers the private sector as one of the most important players in the awareness raising process. Proposing the right products or services for each case and finding solutions for different countries, climatic conditions and development levels, makes private companies the strongest ally in this area of our work.

For this reason, we are promoting private companies that are involved in the rainwater harvesting sector; raising the public's awareness to the accessibility of rainwater harvesting in their own homes by exposing them to reputable companies. Private Sector Members will become an annual bRAINstorming edition, with the next year's focusing on their achievements in 2011.

We end this newsletter with a look at World Water Day 2011; the IRHA celebrated this important day by producing a Rainwater Harvesting Joint Statement with ARCSA and IRCSA. 45 organisations, universities and private companies from 19 countries signed this Statement and helped us spread the word about the benefits of rainwater harvesting.

We would like to thank ARCSA and IRCSA, as well as all the signatories of the Statement, for helping raise the profile of Rainwater Harvesting.



Hannah Price



INTEWA GmbH

Water we're in our element

INTEWA GmbH, based in Germany, stands for innovative ideas in the field of rain and grey water engineering. They aid in saving water and managing and controlling heavy rainfalls, and by doing so, help protect the environment worldwide. Their market-oriented products and systems have been setting the trend since 1993.

You can see their overview brochure [here](#).

INTEWA Products develops and manufactures products for rainwater and grey water management and successfully distributes them through its worldwide dealer network. The highly qualified staff of experienced engineers is continuously working at updating their products.

RAINMASTER ECO – video on their energy saving rainwater unit - small, quiet, smart.

INTEWA Systems: This range provides viable rainwater management products for private, public and commercial buildings in Germany. Providing consistent aid and feedback for the designers, for the building contractors and for the owners, from the very first conception stage through to the start-up.

[Read more...](#)



Flexible Rain Barrels

We are pleased to welcome a new IRHA Private Sector Member from the USA: Flexible Rain Barrels. Specialising in mobile bladders for both residential and commercial use, their products are manufactured in the US and shipped worldwide:

- Easy to transport and setup
- Non potable and Potable NSF61 approved material
- Sizes from 200 litres to 190,000 litres
- U.V. protected for long life



Distributor of ionization systems to purify water:

- Prevents algae, kills viruses and bacteria
- Water is pure for 3 years
- Low cost/energy
- No chlorine required
- Easy to install and low maintenance

[Read more...](#)



Aquapro

Aquapro SA is an independent company founded in 2000 with headquarters located in Les Hauts-Geneveys in the canton of Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

Sellers and installers of rainwater sanitation, collection and disinfection systems, all their products are of professional quality. They carry out the following work throughout Suisse romande:

- The sale and installation of rainwater harvesting systems
- Earthworks and preparation of the ground
- Maintenance of entire rainwater harvesting systems
- System modification and repairs
- Expert diagnostics and preparation of pumping systems and accessories
- Pumping and cleaning of tanks, cisterns and rainwater tanks
- Conversion of old oil tanks for rainwater harvesting

[Read more...](#)

Why I became an IRHA member

Global Water Issues at Local Level

By Colm Fitzpatrick
IRHA Individual Member
Dublin, Ireland

Over the years I would often observe people embracing their Saturday morning power washing of their driveways or patios using 1000's litres of perfectly good drinking water for such a task and thinking how wasteful it was.

I have been interested in the environment and particularly rainwater harvesting for a number of years but due to business commitments it was not possible to pursue this interest until recently and this was when I came upon the IRHA through the internet.

Many of the existing water mains in the capital, Dublin were laid up to 100 years ago. As a result of their age and increased workload they are now leaking or corroding resulting in millions of litres of high-quality potable water being lost every day.

Part of the solution will have to come from the private sector through home owners, communities and businesses investing in their water supply for now and the future as government and local authorities will not have the required funding to tackle this problem.

Having spent over twenty years in distribution/sales & marketing I decided to source a rainwater harvester manufacturer that could address some of the difficult issues facing this problem which lead me to the IRHA. My search is still on!!!

Read the rest of Colm's article [here](#).



Combined Harvesters

A brief synopsis

Since its inception in 2005, Combined Harvesters Ltd have grown to become one of the most respected merchants and advisors to and of the sustainable futures industry. Their history is from 25 years experience creating, designing, running and supplying domestic and commercial landscaping schemes giving the directors a sound grounding in 'how things are done'. This practical experience has been transferred to the present business which is a wheel hub with many spokes attached.

Services

- Full classroom facilities with working demonstrations of rainwater harvesting.
- A number of websites to enable ease of product knowledge, DIMs downloads, PDF product information pages and images.
- Full fitting and/or commissioning services to trade and domestic clients.
- Interpret and supply easily from supplied drainage designs.
- Free advisory service with staff on call permanently.
- Carry out a full maintenance programme.

[Read more...](#)



Oasis Aquatic Gardens

Oasis Aquatic Gardens, in the USA, was founded in late 2008 after its founders, Anthony and Cynthia Nesbitt, discovered the tranquillity of flowing water and the many benefits of rainwater harvesting. The company's main objective is to offer rainfall harvesting systems that coincide with numerous garden water features, stormwater management and consulting services for the do-it-yourselfers.

Their mission is to implement, inform and create a set of standards for rainfall harvesting systems in central Kentucky. Their standards will resolve drainage issues, non-point surface pollution, reduce demand on local municipalities, and provide aesthetic appeal to the surroundings.

Bio-Havens

Anthony Nesbitt has provided a paper introducing the concept and use of Bio-Havens; floating wetlands which work continually to naturally reduce pollutants in the water, improving its quality. He believes that the use of these floating wetlands in relation to rainwater harvesting, for example in retention ponds, will maintain the high quality of collected rainwater.

[Read more...](#)



LABARONNE-CITAF

See their [2011 Catalogue](#).

For 50 years, Labaronne-Citaf has designed and manufactured self-supporting flexible tanks made of polyester fabric with PVC coating. Every year, more than 3,000 tanks up to 500 m³ have been set up all over the world for Defence, Civil Protection, International Humanitarian organizations, Industry and Environment.

Located in Vienne near Lyon, France, the Labaronne-Citaf flexible tank has been developed from long experience and a strong reputation of "Know-how". The first self-supporting flexible tank (patent n° 1.460.825) was produced during 1950's by Mr. André LABARONNE, the founder of the company, in Algeria.

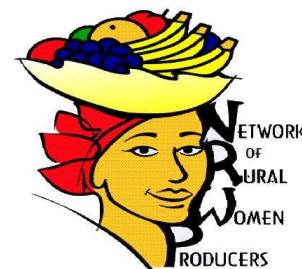
Their rainwater recovery products are fully adapted to both individual and professional users' needs. A forerunner, Labaronne-Citaf offers proven solutions which help to preserve Water resources.

Their tanks are the alternative when space is lacking or access is difficult and meet current regulations (NF pending) and technical specifications (CSTB, ASTEE).

[Read more...](#)

New Member

We are pleased to welcome the Network of Rural Women Producers as an new IRHA Organisation Member.



Based in Trinidad and Tobago, they work towards empowering rural women through providing access to credit for micro-business projects and contributing to the elimination of the gender bias in the ownership of land.

Become an IRHA Private Sector Member

This IRHA newsletter has focused on the activities and accomplishments of our Private Sector Members.

If you are a private company that sells/installs rainwater harvesting equipment or services, and would like a platform for reaching rainwater harvesters worldwide, then becoming an IRHA member has many benefits.

As well as an annual newsletter dedicated to your activities, the company will also be added to the [Business Directory](#) on our website.

If you are interested in becoming a Private Sector Member, more information can be found on our [website](#), or email:

secretariat@irha-h2o.org



Rainwater Harvesting

Rainwater Harvesting is an independent family owned company based in Peterborough, UK, that specialises in supplying rainwater harvesting equipment at the lowest possible price.

They have provided an article on the use of solar power for rainwater harvesting systems:

[Solar-Powered rainwater harvesting systems](#)

New technologies from hi-tech Europe and the Far East are of great use in developing parts of the world, especially those in which water is at a premium. For example, solar power water pumps, in use in the UK for pumping rainwater round eco-homes, can be efficient and low cost solutions world-wide.

[Read more...](#)



Rain Harvesting

Over the past 20 years, the Rain Harvesting brand and range of products have developed to become the leader in the Australian sustainable water systems industry today. Their range of products are all designed to collect, store and distribute higher volumes of cleaner water for all homes. They specialise in water catchment, storage, insect/pest control, and leaf and debris removal systems used in both rainwater harvesting and home protection.

[Read more...](#)



Water Harvesters

Water Harvesters was established in 2000 in the capital city of India, New Delhi, with a sole objective of making people aware of the far reaching effects of ground water abuse and the consequential hazards related to groundwater depletion. Over a period of six years, the Company has grown from a one-man show to a consortium of scientists and hydro-geologists who work day and night to devise state-of-the-art techniques to implement best Rainwater Harvesting structures, balancing the needs of the clients with those of the environment.

[Read more...](#)



TOPIC OF TODAY

The Topic of Today is a platform for sharing new scientific and research studies related to RWH. Always centred on a specific subject area, experts in the field of RWH will be invited to share their knowledge on the Topic of Today!

We invite the public to distribute these papers to better spread the word of rainwater harvesting and to send in comments or ideas for future topics.

The current subject is [Rainwater Quality](#), and we have two papers on the problems of chemical and microbiological contamination of rooftop runoff by Dr Dennis Lye.

If you have any ideas for future topics or want to give feedback on our current topic, please send an email to secretariat@irha-h2o.org

IMPORTANT NEWS!

Raindrops Geneva Award 2011

Best Photographs on the Advantages of the use of Rainwater Harvesting

The IRHA and Photojournale have decided to postpone the deadline for the Raindrops Geneva Award 2011, as unfortunately, we did not receive enough photographs showing the uses and benefits of rainwater harvesting.

The new date for the final submission of photographs is the **31st October 2011** at 12 midnight GMT, with the top three photographs awarded CHF 1000, 600 and 400. Additionally, every tenth photograph entered will have the chance to be published on the IRHA and Photojournale websites.

- Please visit our [website](#) for important information and read the [Rules of the Competition](#) before you enter your photographs.
- We ask competitors to focus on the topic, and **only enter photographs that show the uses and benefits of rainwater harvesting**; entries straying from this theme will not win.
- Use of Photoshop or touch ups is limited to traditional darkroom techniques.
- Use of cloning or other digital effects is forbidden and any images thought to be manipulated will be deemed ineligible.
- There is a maximum of five photographs per person, any more than this will not be accepted.

Once you have read the Rules of the Competition, send your photographs to: raindropsaward@irha-h2o.org

IRHA Activities and News

CELEBRATION OF WORLD WATER DAY 2011

Rainwater Harvesting Joint Statement

Rainwater is a valuable water resource and its management desires drastic improvement. Better rainwater management will decrease the overexploitation of surface and underground water resources, will shorten the dry periods and reduce the peak of floods in rainy seasons.

Three organizations, the IRHA, the ARCSA and the IRCSA, decided to meet World Water Day 2011 with a Joint Statement, bringing the attention of many to the benefits of Rainwater Harvesting. Local, national and international NGOs, media, local and national authorities, universities and technical schools and private companies, were all invited to become signatories to publish the Statement as a press release in their country on 22nd March.

Press Conference

On Tuesday 22nd March 2011, World Water Day, the IRHA organised a Press Conference to release the Rainwater Harvesting Joint Statement. Ms Adèle Thorens Goumaz, a National Councillor for the Canton of Vaud and a member of Swiss Green Party, along with Ms Vessela Monta, IRHA Executive Director, and Mr Alain Dick, IRHA President, spoke at the conference. The Joint Statement was presented along with an overview of the IRHA and its Blue Schools programme and outline of water usage (and waste!) in Switzerland.



Collège du Léman

This year, the students of Collège du Léman chose to support the IRHA on March 22nd for World Water Day. In order to raise funds, a successful bake sale and water related activities were made available to students. As both a fun and awareness oriented activity, students were asked to differentiate between tap water and bottled water. A quiz was also used in order to shock students with statistics relating to water wastage. In total, 660 Swiss Francs were raised in support of this organisation (60 went to the Japanese Emergency Relief Fund). "We plan on supporting the IRHA for World Water Day 2012!" [Read more...](#)

Signatories

We would like to thank the work carried out by all the signatories to publicise the Statement in their countries and networks.

Many signatories, including Green Cross International, Combined Harvesters, Rainwater Services, Network of Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago, Oasis Aquatic Gardens and Rainwater Collection Solutions, published the Statement on Twitter and Facebook, along with many others on their websites.

The Kenya Rainwater Association handed out copies of the Statement at a World Water Day event at the National Museums of Kenya, as well as publishing it on their Twitter and Facebook pages.

Other activities included hospital and school visits by the Save Our Life - Ghana Foundation, promotion at health centres by RainWater Cambodia, and releasing the Statement to local newspapers, radios and TV channels by many.

The Statement was translated into several languages, including French, Spanish, Nepali, Urdu, Korean, Greek, Dutch, German and Portuguese. At press time, 45 organisations from 19 nations had signed the Statement. We encourage more organizations, including businesses and universities, to join the permanent list of supporters by emailing secretariat@irha-h2o.org.

Join us online and get involved!

If you have any ideas, examples or questions about rainwater harvesting, please feel free to share them with us on our **Facebook** and **Twitter** pages.



We want these to be interactive, so the more contributions the better! In return we will keep you up-to-date on all the activities going on at the IRHA.

Upcoming Newsletter

The next edition of bRAINstorming will look at the use of rainwater as drinking water. If you have any ideas, articles or pictures that you would like to contribute, please send them to us at:

newsletter-en@irha-h2o.org

Subscribe to the Newsletter

To subscribe or unsubscribe, please email us at:

newsletter-en@irha-h2o.org

Become a Member

The IRHA Members benefit from our extensive network and contribute to increasing the global use of rainwater harvesting.

Visit our website at:

<http://irha-h2o.org/?page=Members>