

## Rainwater Harvesting Systems Save Water, Money

Thursday, June 3, 2010, 4 p.m. EDT

In this overlook of the back yard facing the house, you can see that I kept my koi pond. (Courtesy of Mike Garcia) This close-up shows the aeration waterfall. (Courtesy of Mike Garcia) In an effort to do the right thing for the environment as well as to diversify my business experience, I recently took the leap of faith and converted my swimming pool into a rainwater harvesting system. I decided to make part of the rainwater harvesting system install an event by inviting designers, architects, contractors, municipalities, water districts and politicians.

The rainwater harvesting system event proved a success, as did the resulting press. The local paper published a two-page spread of the rainwater harvesting system event, and a trade magazine published an article on it.

My next challenge was following up the project to completion. I had to hook up the rainwater harvesting system into my drip irrigation system. In California, it is illegal to use rainwater harvested water with regular irrigation spray heads. I found that rainwater harvesting is a part of a much larger whole.

The whole idea of rainwater harvesting is to save water. After crunching all the numbers, I discovered that my yard will need up to two months of tap water instead of the normal 12 months everyone else's yard will need.

Pond professionals leave a lot of money on the table if they do not learn about sprinklers and drought-tolerant plants. Today's consumers want a return on their investments. A rainwater harvesting system provides a return on clients' investments.

Rainwater harvesting provides a huge opportunity for pond professionals who learn how to sell and install them. Share your experiences with this new technology in the comment section below.