



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

Allison Fore

Public Affairs Specialist

312.751.6633

publicaffairsinfo@mwr.org

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

For immediate release

April 16, 2012

## MWRD and Gompers Fine Art Option students to celebrate Earth month by painting rain barrels

**Who:** Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), John G. Shedd Aquarium, and Gompers Fine Art Option Elementary School, Chicago

**What:** Photo/Visual opportunity featuring MWRD Commissioners teaming up with students for aquatic rain barrel artistry to celebrate Earth Month

**When:** 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 17

**Where:** John G. Shedd Aquarium, 1200 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago

To celebrate Earth month, Commissioners from the MWRD will team up with John G. Shedd Aquarium staff and students from Chicago's Gompers Fine Arts Option Elementary School to decorate rain barrels on Tuesday, April 17 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Shedd Aquarium.

The MWRD has recently launched a green infrastructure initiative using rain gardens, native landscaping, stormwater trees, bio-swales, green roofs, greenways, wetlands and porous pavement to achieve its mission to manage stormwater and reduce pollution.

The public can join this important mission by taking advantage of the MWRD rain barrel program, which provides 55 gallon capacity rain barrels for \$58 each, including home delivery and a starter installation kit. Rain barrels are durable plastic containers that collect and store rainwater from your rooftop (via your home's disconnected downspout) for later use.

"We are hoping to show that individuals of all ages can capture and reuse water," said David St. Pierre, MWRD executive Director. "You're never too old or too young to wash a bicycle or a car with water collected during a rainstorm. By painting rain barrels, we hope to show its benefits."

"Shedd Aquarium is especially thrilled to partner with the MWRD during Earth Week, as this event not only provides an opportunity for conservation learning and growth among the participating students, but supports Shedd's overall conservation mission and educational initiatives," said Allen LaPointe, vice president of environmental quality.

Press & Media interested in attending the event may arrive to Shedd Aquarium's loading dock entrance on the south side of the building at 10 am and check in with security. Parking will be provided.

*Our water environment...Take it personally*

*Established in 1889, the MWRD ([www.mwr.org](http://www.mwr.org)) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.*

