



## Illinois Department of **Natural Resources**

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Pat Quinn, Governor  
Marc Miller, Director

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### **IDNR Announces Winners of Illinois State Fair Rain Barrel Contest**

#### *Contest Designed to Encourage Residents to Recycle Rain Water*

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Marc Miller today announced the winners of the Illinois State Fair Rain Barrel Contest. As part of Governor Pat Quinn’s ongoing effort to make Illinois a “green” leader throughout the country, Illinois State Fair visitors were able to register for one of three chances to win a 55-gallon hand-painted rain barrel.

“Fresh, clean water is one of the greatest natural resources and using a rain barrel to collect rainwater for use on the lawn or in the garden is a great way to conserve water while also saving on your water bill,” said Director Miller.

The winners of the rain barrels are Bill Hinkle of Flora, Carol Huff of Dawson and Jelain Darling of Chicago.

One inch of rainfall on a typical residential roof can produce 625 gallons of water – enough to fill 11 rain barrels. Because Illinois typically receives 36 inches of rainfall a year, a standard 55-gallon rain barrel could be filled 400 times in a 12-month period. That’s especially helpful during the summer months, when nearly half of all water usage goes toward watering lawns and gardens.

Collecting water in rain barrels can:

- Reduce the amount of storm water flow on city and neighborhood drainage infrastructure.
- Lower monthly water bills by using collected water to irrigate gardens, house plants and lawns.
- Reduce pollution from runoff in your local lakes and streams.

The rain barrels were donated by Austin Grammer of Prairie Rain Harvester ([www.prairierainharvester.com](http://www.prairierainharvester.com)) and painted by Springfield artists Michael Mayosky, Felicia Olin and Jeff Williams.

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