



The Hydrant

RAIN CATCHMENT SYSTEMS

A number of residents have installed rain catchment systems to augment the Cape's water system. This, of course helps us conserve our water supply from the wells up on Mt. Finlayson. Recently we reviewed some of the systems and have a brief summary of the systems we reviewed. We're hopeful that this may encourage other Cape residents to install a system on their property. We note that each of the systems shown here are unique – one off, mostly conceived and constructed by the homeowners. It is very important that a rain catchment system does not connect to CSJ's domestic water system. Cross Connection of water supplies would require a state approved and annually tested backflow prevention device.



1



2

COURTER

Courter's installed a 1000 gallon tank behind the house in the Fall of 2017. The water is collected by one side of their roof. The water is piped underground to the tank. An overflow discharges away from the house. The tank filled in three weeks. See Figures 1,2.



3



4

HILL

The Hill's are collecting water from the entire roof. They installed a 4000 gallon bladder in the crawl space. The system has a knockout drum to try and keep pine and fir needles out of the bladder. The bladder fills with water during about 1/3 of the winter. Pine needles have been a bother to some extent. They intend to install a pump, similar to the pump used on boats for the water system – 12volt. See Figures 3,4.



HANSSON

The Hansson's have installed six 55 gallon drums alongside their house. The drums are interconnected with piping and valves for distribution and isolation. Each drum has an overflow. They use a sump pump inserted into the top of the drum to supply water. Leaves and needles have not been an issue because the gutters are covered with leaf guards. They collect rain from a portion of the roof. The barrels were used in olive shipments, and supplied by Sky Nursery in Shoreline.

LYMAN

The Lyman's have the most sophisticated and elaborate collection system of those reviewed. They have a total of 5100 gallons of storage in 4- 1000 gallon concrete tanks and one 1100 gallon plastic tank. The tanks are hydraulically connected. The gutters are protected with leaf/needle guards. The system has a water filter, pressure tank/system switch and 8 hydrants for irrigation, pressure washing the roof, deck, and washing vehicles. The Lyman's have extensive plantings and report that their system provides the water for nearly all their external water needs. They have prepared a detailed photo summary of their system that is not included in this summary but is available from Ken O'Brien if interested.

LOOKING AHEAD: materials on disaster management will be included in the next Hydrant.

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