

# Press Release

## **Rain Barrel Percussionists Win “Most Humorous”**

Greenbelt MD, 2 September 2013: The all-volunteer Greenbelt Precipitation Preservation and Percussion Society (GPP&PS) was awarded “Most Humorous” by the 2013 Labor Day Festival. The team created a percussion ensemble including a lawn sprinkler tambourine, a rain stick made from a downspout, a didgeridoo made from PVC plumbing, and a steel watering can, all rhythmically steadied by a thundering 55-gallon rain barrel mounted on their human-propelled parade float.

The team, dressed in a rainbow of colors, provided a 2-minute performance at several intersections along the parade route and at the judges’ reviewing stand.

GPP&PS promotes on-site storage of precipitation in rain barrels. Water stored in your rain barrel is water that won’t run off into our streams. Instead, as you use the stored rainwater around the home and garden, it will absorb slowly into the ground replenishing groundwater supplies. By decreasing storm runoff, rain barrels moderate erosion and reduce pollution in our lakes, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay.

Chris Colvin coached the team on rhythmic percussion to ensure the result wasn’t a cacophonous hail of noise. “I’ve worked with many drummers, but never quite like this.” Amy Swackhamer, who played sheet metal to create thunder during the performance, said “The Society is precisely the sort of thing that seems to happen in Greenbelt.” Beth LeaMond, who played the bass barrel along the parade route, said “I love music and frontier-style environmental preservation—this was a great way to combine two of my passions!” Dorian Winterfield played a 5-gallon bucket with drumsticks and said “Greenbelt is such a supportive community that anyone can find a place to shine, even with homemade instruments.” Stephen Duda, 9 years old, played the role of the flower that blooms when the rain barrel channels the

Photos (with captions) and an electronic copy of this press release are available at <http://spril.com/Rain>

rainfall, and added "I get so upset when water is wasted." His father, Alan Duda, noted "I learn something new from this Society every year.

I didn't know barrels were primarily to prevent runoff, and preserve water as a bonus."

Other Society members were Frank DeBernardo, Johanna Goderre Jones, Tom Jones, Luisa Robles, and Karen Wallace.

To support the environmental benefits of rain barrels, Greenbelt Homes Incorporated (GHI) has a Rain Barrel Purchase Program that buys in bulk for lower prices; call 301-474-4161 x143 for more information. Prince George's County also has a rebate program providing up to \$100 to those installing rain barrels storing at least 100 gallons, and up to \$2,500 to those creating a rain garden.

A video of the Society performance is available at <http://spril.com/Rain> The society was formed to march in the parade with a creative theme, but holds no regular meetings. Several team members were part of last year's Greenbelt Society for the Preambling Friezes of History as a Foundation for the Future, 2011's Greenbelt Recycling and Sustainability Society, 2010's Get My Drift Society, 2009's Greenbelt Sun-Dried Garmenture Society Drill Team, and 2008's Greenbelt Reel Lawnmower Society Precision Drill Team.

The Society thanks Martha Heil and Dar Veverka for costumery. This performance is dedicated to the elder Karen Wallace, a drummer extraordinaire prevented by cancer from leading the percussive society, and who passed away September 26.

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GPP&PS at the start of the parade. Left to right: Dorian Winterfield, Luisa Robles, Chris Colvin, Johanna Goderre Jones, Beth LeaMond, Stephen Duda, Alan Duda, Amy Swackhamer, Frank DeBernardo, and Karen Wallace. Photo by Tom Jones.



Left-to-right: Chris Colvin, Dorian Winterfield, Tom Jones, Beth LeaMond, Maryland Senator James Rosapepe, US House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, Alan Duda, Stephen Duda, Johanna Goderre Jones, Luisa Robles, and Frank DeBernardo.

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Left to right: Chris Colvin, Dorian Winterfield, Tom Jones, Amy Swackhamer, Beth LeaMond, Johanna Goderre Jones, Maryland Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown, Frank DeBernardo, Luisa Robles, Karen Wallace, and Alan Duda. Photo by Andy Carruthers.



Left-to-right: Amy Swackhamer, Tom Jones, Chris Colvin, Johanna Goderre Jones, Beth LeaMond, Dorian Winterfield, Stephen Duda (obscured), Karen Wallace, and Luisa Robles. Photo by Jaki Demarest.



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GPP&PS with the Most Humorous Trophy. Left to right: Chris Colvin, Dorian Winterfield, Tom Jones, Amy Swackhamer, Beth LeaMond, Luisa Robles, Alan Duda, Karen Wallace, Johanna Goderre Jones. Photo by Jaki Demarest.