Cabrillo offering water conservation courses

WATSONVILLE — Cabrillo Extension, along with the Water Conservation Coalition of Santa Cruz County, is offering a series of workshops and classes for home and garden.

These classes offer instruction on water-saving techniques and conservation principles.

Cabrillo Extension’s collaboration with the following agencies has helped reduce registration fees:
- City of Watsonville
- Soquel Creek Water District
- City of Santa Cruz Water Department
- San Lorenzo Valley Water District
- Scotts Valley Water District

The classes are as follows:
- Design & Build Water Neutral Landscaping, Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. In this class, you’ll learn a whole systems approach to landscape design that synthesizes resources available with a unified plan that stores rain water in soil and cisterns, harvests abundant graywater, chooses plants that require less water, and applies gardening and irrigation practices to reduce inputs.
- A-Z Rainwater Harvesting, March 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. This class will discuss the fundamentals of designing a domestic rainwater harvesting system, how to optimize capture and usage, filtration and distribution. Graywater systems will also be discussed.
- Graywater: Laundry to Landscape, March 3, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. This class gives participants information on re-purposing water which was previously considered waste water and can now be redirected for landscape and garden irrigation.
- Replace Your Lawn, April 25, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. In this one-day class, you will be guided, step by step, through the entire lawn replacement process: from initial considerations of cost and difficulty, through selecting the right plants for your site, to soil.

Walkways, Pathways & Patios, May 16 and May 23, 1-4 p.m. In this class you will learn why pervious hardscapes are important to prevent storm run-off and keep water onsite. The class will discuss cost-saving sustainable hardscape materials and what embodied energy is and why it matters. Lecture, hands-on activities, and field trip included.

All classes are $20-$25. Reduced fees for registrations are available before Feb. 23. For information, call 479-6331. To register online, visit [www.cabrillo.edu/services/extension/green.html](http://www.cabrillo.edu/services/extension/green.html).