

PEOPLE

Edited by Scott Meyer



Ribbon-cutting ceremonies:
In each garden, we had a party to dedicate the cistern and celebrate the community that cares for the garden.



WATERWORKS 2007

20 Gardens, 20 Communities

In almost every garden, the land is made better and so is the gardener." This quote on our cover (from Bob Rodale, our longtime editor-in-chief and still our guiding light) defines why we believe it's worth our time and trouble to support community gardens. Being an organic gardener teaches you how interdependent we are on each other and the natural world. Community gardens go one step beyond: They bring together people to grow food and beautify their neighborhood, but the most valuable fruit harvested is the spirit of cooperation and civic pride that blossoms around them.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: TERESE CIBANIK, SCOTT MEYER, TAMMY HOSIA, CHRISTA NEU



Passionate people: We saw firsthand how gardeners who care make a real difference in their communities.

During the past gardening season, the editorial and marketing teams at *Organic Gardening* have been working with 20 community gardens in locales across North America. We've been providing them with 1,000-gallon water tanks and all the other resources they need to set up a rainwater-harvesting system—in many cases the garden's only reliable water source.

Along the way, we've had the privilege of meeting the dedicated people who organize community gardens, and many passionate community-garden members. More than ever, we're convinced that gardeners are the nicest, most generous and appreciative people you'll meet. We also saw that community gardens are organic gardens, that demonstrate the importance and value of caring for the environment.

After the dedication party for each garden, we came back with tales of people who rally their neighbors, ignore obstacles, battle through bureaucracy, and share their bounty with those less fortunate. We will be telling those stories in upcoming issues. But first we wanted to show you this roundup from a few of the parties, where we joined with our sponsors to congratulate the gardeners and celebrate their accomplishments.

We have so many people to thank for their help with this

project, and you'll see them all listed on page 62. Right here we want to particularly thank our partners at the American Community Gardening Association (with a special shout out to Gerard Lordahl, past president) for introducing us to the great community-garden leaders we worked with. Lenny Librizzi from New York's Council on the Environment has been our rainwater-harvesting guru, installing a couple of the systems himself and offering his time and knowledge wherever it was needed.

This project would not have been possible without the enthusiastic and generous support of our sponsors, the caring folks at Aveeno and Nature's Path. The commitment of the Rodale family and the management team at Rodale Inc. inspires us to make a difference and provides the means for us to do it.

As you look at the images and read the stories (both here and at *OrganicGardening.com*), we hope you'll see why we believe that "In every community garden, the land is made better and so are the gardeners and the whole community."

.....
 We're already planning next year's WaterWorks project. If you know of a worthy community garden, send us a letter or e-mail and tell us why. (Our contact info is on page 8.)

THANK YOU



ACGA



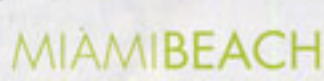
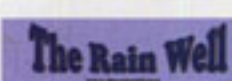
AMERICAN
COMMUNITY
GARDENING
ASSOCIATION

Aveeno.
INSPIRES

active gardens



Organic Gardening wishes to thank Aveeno and Nature's Path, and the many partners of the 2007 WaterWorks water conservation initiative who have made it possible to deliver and install cisterns in 20 community gardens in North America. With their assistance, participating community gardeners will harvest more than 20,000 gallons of water this year, providing gardeners and their communities with sustainable water solutions for years to come.



LUPPEN and HAWLEY, Inc.



For more information about the WaterWorks program, visit
www.organicgardening.com/waterworks