

**Wildlife Watering:** Water guzzlers are systems set up to water wildlife. A roof, storage tank and watering device are all needed as they are often set in place without an existing roof. The size, shape and design varies with the location, rainfall and water demands. Systems are often portable and the watering device usually has a float on it to regulate the level of water available to wildlife. Some have an emitter attached to provide sounds to attract wildlife. These could also be used in bird baths or for livestock. There is information available on daily demands for various species of livestock and wildlife.

**Water for the Home:** Rainwater has supplied lots of homes worldwide and is becoming a more commonly used source of water for rural homes in Central Texas. Storage capacity needs to be sufficient to provide several months supply of water. 50 gallons per person per day under conservative means can be used to figure storage needed to supply water inside the home. Pre-filters, pump, pressure tank, filters and a sanitizing devise like a UV light are requirements to provide high quality water for the home.

#### **Water from Air-Conditioning Units**

The water created by the condensing unit of many central air-conditioning units systems is often expelled into the waste water or dumped on the ground. This water can be an enormous amount and used in similar methods as rain water.

#### **Conclusion**

Rainwater captured has a tremendous amount of potential outside the home. With creative landscaping that is both beautiful and functional, a tremendous amount of water can be saved. Most wildlife are dependent on water to complete the requirements of a good habitat. It up to us to determine the most effective usage of our water and be good stewards of our water and watersheds including our own back yards. Use adapted xeriscape plants, develop healthy soils with lots of organic matter, add mulches, and manage water wisely for our generation and those depending on us for their survival. The State of Texas has added some incentives to encourage rainwater harvesting. The sales tax charge has been eliminated on collection systems. **The new exemption is**

**contained in 2001's Senate Bill 312. (Senate Bill 2).**

#### **Sources of Information**

**Rainwater Harvesting** by Texas Cooperative Extension. Booklet B-6153-can be downloaded off the web free or purchased at

**<http://tcebookstore.org>**

**The Texas Water Development Board** has developed a guide for a rainwater system installation. This excellent resource explains rainwater harvesting and provides a list of installers and sources of materials. It can be found on the web at: **[www.twdb.state.tx.us](http://www.twdb.state.tx.us)**

**Texas Parks and Wildlife** has an older publication on water guzzlers.

**Natural Resource Conservation Service** developed a guide for wildlife guzzlers for West Texas.

**Menard County office of the Texas Cooperative Extension** for more information.

**City of Austin** website shows their rebates and incentives for using rainwater plus information.

**Menard County Cooperative Extension Web Site:**

**<http://menard-co.tamu.edu>**

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