



## **Rainwater Harvesting System in East Greenwich**

During the spring of 2010, the New Jersey Water Savers Program in partnership with the East Greenwich Board of Education worked with Middletown Sprinkler Company and the Spring Irrigation Company to install two 500 gallon rainwater harvesting and irrigation system at the Samuel J. Mickle Elementary School Project WILD site.

The harvesting system is essentially a huge rain barrel designed to capture the rain off a portion of the school's roof. The water is then pumped through the water efficient irrigation system and provides water to feed the students' native plants gardens. This project was officially open to the public at a Build-A-Rain Barrel workshop held in May where participants toured the gardens and then build their own barrels use at their home gardens.

The Samuel J. Mickle WILD site is a schoolyard habitat project began in November 1992. The fifth grade students performed an initial site inventory to identify the essential elements of wildlife habitat. The students concluded that there were very few areas on the school grounds that were beneficial to wildlife. Along with the input of the teachers and community members, the students enlisted the expertise of the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife and the Gloucester County Soil Conservation Service. Together they developed a safe, pleasant nature place, where children have the opportunity to observe, learn and become sensitive to the delicate balance of nature. It is a place where students can till, plant, and take care of the environment and form a mental and emotional impression that never be matched in a textbook. The school community shares in the responsibility of caring for the WILD site and offers students a "hands-on" approach to environmental and cross-curricular education.