

Workshop Explores Rainwater Harvesting

Bob Slusser, a National Capital Region Natural Resources program staff member and watershed field coordinator with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, conducted an informative workshop on rainwater harvesting at Virginia Tech's Falls Church, Va. campus.

Sixty-two participants from local jurisdictions, state agencies, and private companies in Northern Virginia attended to learn about this emerging technology from subject matter experts. The workshop covered various topics related to rainwater harvesting techniques and technology, as well as information on the progress of current and future research being conducted at Virginia Tech that shows promise in saving money and energy throughout the commonwealth.

In welcoming the group, Michael Mortimer, director of graduate programs for the college in the National Capital Region, emphasized opportunities for collabo-

ration between the Natural Resources program and municipalities, state agencies, and private consultants in Northern Virginia interested in rainwater harvesting and other new conservation initiatives.

David Bulova, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, spoke about the hurdles of getting widespread rainwater harvesting legislation implemented, and Jack Frye, director of Soil and Water Conservation with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, examined the relationship between rainwater harvesting and stormwater management.

Ph.D. candidate Adrienne Labranche gave an in-depth presentation on the components that make up a rainwater harvesting system. Labranche, a sales and support specialist for Rainwater Management Solutions in Salem, Va., is a member of the Interdisciplinary Environmental Design & Planning Program and co-author of the *Virginia*

Rainwater Harvesting Manual. Tamim Younos, associate director of the Virginia Water Resources Research Center, offered a long-term view of the economic and energy benefits of harvesting rainwater.

A common theme throughout the workshop was recognizing the need to bring together multidisciplinary practices in order to design new rainwater harvesting systems and see them through to the local watershed level.

Virginia Rep. David Bulova (C) joined Bob Slusser (L) and Michael Mortimer of the National Capital Region Natural Resources program at the rainwater harvesting workshop.

