



# ACORN

Jaques Chapter Izaak Walton League of America

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## *What Is a Watershed?*

### **Brown's Creek Watershed District on April 1 Program**

7 p.m. at The White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church. The meeting is open to the public.

We hear about the work of watershed districts in news articles and in planning contexts that involve water resources. But what do these governmental units do?

As Vice-president of the Brown's Creek Watershed District Board of Management, Jaques Chapter member Rick Vanzwol is deeply involved in the workings of his watershed, At our April 1 chapter meeting Rick will background us on watersheds, using Brown's Creek as an example.

1. What is a Watershed?
2. Watershed Districts around us.
3. Budgets.
4. Brown's Creek Watershed District activities.

"Brown's Creek Watershed is made up of communities interlaced with natural corridors that improve the function and value of the District's water resources and support a diverse population of plants, wildlife and fish. The District brings people and the environment together to accommodate development that preserves the connection between surface water and groundwater and enhances the quality of these resources."

## **AT OUR MARCH 4 CHAPTER MEETING**

Chapter members discussed the **chapter mission statement** that has been crafted over the last several meetings. It was approved as stated in the February/March issue of the Acorn with a few suggestions. One goal was to increase membership instead of hold a membership drive. Another was to provide volunteer opportunities for all citizens in addition to members.

John Seikmeier volunteered to **make up a brochure** to provide information on our chapter and the Izaak Walton League. This brochure will be used at the chapter's booth at **Rite of Spring to be held April 26** at the Mahtomedi District Center from 9 a.m. to noon. It promises to be a huge environmental celebration. Plan to be there.

**Any resolutions** to come from the chapter and forwarded to the IWLA State Division for consideration must be submitted by March 25. Phil Hinderaker at [phildh24@msn.com](mailto:phildh24@msn.com) will take these ideas and pass them on to members via e-mail in time to be considered. **The State Convention and Annual Meeting of the Corporation will be hosted by the Red Wing Chapter in Red Wing April 25-27.** The historic St. James Hotel will be one place to lodge and some of the weekend will be held there. The Red Wing Chapter house on the Mississippi River will be another meeting place. You will get to know the surrounding area through tours. Red Wing is a great place to visit so register today. There is still a little time. Contact the State Division Office at 651-221-0215.

### *Global Climate Crisis Spring Speakers Series*

**April 16, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Transportation in the Metro Area**  
Jim Erkel, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, will discuss transportation issues in our Metro area including mass transit.

### *ATTENTION 3 M RETIREES RND EMPLOYEES*

**3M will be holding an Earth Day celebration on April 22 at Building 275.** Since our chapter has many employees and retirees, here's your opportunity to support the environment. 3M will match any donations dollar for dollar up to \$25,000 made by 3M retirees or employees to the Minnesota Division IWLA. Check the following number for dates and how you can contribute. Call 651-221-0215, the Division Office.

**Jaques Chapter President, Phil Hinderaker - 651-426-2620 Acorn  
Editor - Julie Henricksson - 651-426-2763**

**New Chapter Web Site: <http://www.jaquesiwla.org/>**

## **The Church in the Woods - Building Sustainably**

Sustainability in building is the watchword in current construction. One of the legislative issues supported by the Ikes Midwest Division is Minnesota 2030 - Promoting Exceptional New Buildings. This legislation promotes building more energy efficient structures.

Here in Mahtomedi is an example of planning for sustainability. Jaques Chapter President Phil Hinderaker who served on the Building Committee for the recent addition to the White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church, our new chapter meeting site, walks us through some of the sustainable features of the new addition.

Outside the Building Water was an immediate concern. To avoid relocation of an outlet stream that would impact natural woods, the sanctuary was relocated from the architect's original site. This meant sacrificing a number of treasured oaks but the mature red and white oaks lost were sawn into lumber and are now part of the spectacular north wall of the new sanctuary atrium. Additional salvaged lumber will become a new pulpit and church furniture as well as an outdoor classroom.

Another priority was to save trees within the parking lot as tree islands. Members of the Land Stewardship Committee installed permanent underground water lines. Rice Creek Watershed District partially subsidized use of permeable asphalt on the north half of the parking lot which allows rain water to drain through the asphalt surface into a subsurface reservoir which filters the water before it flows into the surface drainage network to White Bear Lake.

Inside the Building the new 400 capacity sanctuary is of contemporary design using recycled and sustainable construction materials. The exterior is Cor-Ten steel which will oxidize to a deep brown (now red) and will need no paint and will not decay.

The interior is finished with clear grain Douglas Fir and burnished concrete building blocks. Concrete floors negate need for carpeting. A photovoltaic panel mounted on the roof will feed solar energy into the power distribution system. Banks of large windows on the east and west are visually stunning and bring the outdoors into the room.

The atrium which serves as an art gallery connects the new addition with the older part of the church. The addition provides badly needed space for groups and administrative offices. Some of the redesigned office space has no outdoor window access so four innovative "solar tubes" were installed to conduct sunlight through the roof into the office space.

A lot of work was done by volunteers. An example: the Land Stewardship Committee took responsibility for grounds and replacement planting required by the City of Mahtomedi and landscape planting that enhances the church grounds. Check out the results of the planning involved. In this addition when you attend the next chapter meeting.

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## **Some energy saving tips for the kitchen**

Courtesy of The Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

- + To keep as much of the surface unit heat as possible from escaping, *use pots and pans with fiat bottoms and always use a pan the same size as the surface unit.*
- + Turn the surface element or oven off a few minutes before cooking time is up. Electric stoves stay hot for a few minutes after they are turned off.
- + Use a microwave oven. It will use less than half the power of a conventional oven and cook the food in about a fourth the time, greatly reducing cooking costs.
- + Use as little water as possible. It takes energy to heat water. Most frozen or fresh vegetables can be cooked in no more than a quarter cup of water.
- + Don't peek in the oven. Each time the door is opened the temperature drops 25 to 50 degrees.
- + Refrigerators and freezers operate most -efficiently when full but not overcrowded. Put items slightly apart on refrigerator shelves to let air circulate.
- + Don't open a refrigerator door until you know what you want.