

Conservation Corner: Conservation and your home . . . rain barrels



Up to this point I

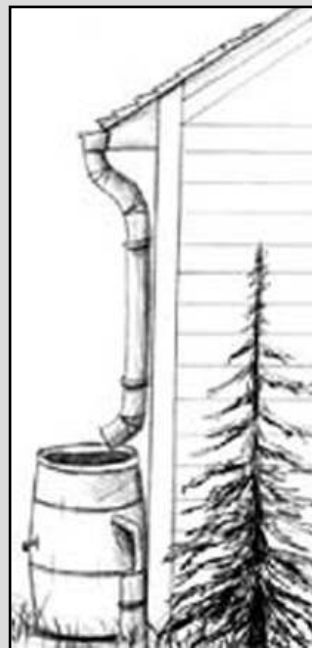
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Backyard conservation is something everyone can practice to protect our soil and water resources, and in doing so, you might even save some money. A rain barrel is one such backyard conservation practice. A rain barrel is a container (usually a 55 gallon drum) used to collect and store rainwater from your roof that can later be used to water plants, wash your car, or add to a swimming pool. Ordinarily, the water would simply be diverted to a storm drain or out into your property. This "soft water" contains no chlorine, lime or calcium, so your plants will love it. Water both your house plants and your vegetable garden and lower your water bill!

Rainwater collection and reuse is beneficial to soil and water because the stored water would otherwise run off into the storm sewers, bringing pollutants such as sediment, oil and grease, bacteria, and nutrients



To order a rain barrel contact the Jasper SWCD Office: 219-866-8008 ext 3. Four colors available.



50% of your neighborhood of 50 homes had rain barrels, than that would mean 2,750 gallons of water was stopped from reaching the river. I would say that is an impact.

It seems that it is our small efforts that can make the world a better place. In the famous words of Anne Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has." So, start that neighborhood trend and get a rain barrel this year!

If you are interested in a rain barrel please visit our website at www.jaspercountyswcd.org or call our office at 219-866-8008 ext 3 or email if you are interested.

Reminder: Tuesday, April 6th is the Jasper County SWCD Annual Tree Sale at the Jasper County Fairgrounds from 10am to 6pm. We have extra trees, native plants, and rain barrels

have focused a lot of talk on agriculture and conservation. With agriculture being 90% of the land use in the county, our office should be focusing a good deal of our efforts on agricultural conservation. However, our towns and urban areas can also have a huge impact on the quality of our soil and water resources.

with it. Once water gets into a storm sewer, it eventually ends up in our streams and rivers. Have you ever watched a river of rainwater run down your driveway into the ditch or storm sewer? Or even worse, seep into your basement? Collecting roof runoff in rain barrels is a good solution to these problems and it also

helps alleviate peak water flows that result in flooding (anyone along a waterway will understand this reality). Does having a rain barrel really reduce flooding? Well, let's do some number crunching. During a one-inch rain event 0.6 gallons of water will fall on a square foot of roof and 54 gallons will fall on 90

square feet of roof—enough to fill a 55 gallon rain barrel. To collect twice this volume from the same downspout, you could connect the overflow hose from the first rain barrel to a second rain barrel. So overall you have stopped 110 gallons of water from reaching the nearest river, not a lot of water for one effort, but say

Looking for something fun to do this fall? Dartball needs you

SHERRI MORRISON
KV POST NEWS
CORRESPONDENT

Those looking for a fun way to spend a Monday night and meet new friends this fall should check into the many dartball leagues offered through the various churches in the area. The KV Dartball League held their annual dartball awards banquet recently where 10 teams were honored throughout the evening. "I've made a lot of friends through dartball from all the different churches. This league formed from the Rensselaer league in the

mid-80's. In the spring, we compete in a multi-county tournament," said dartball member Glenn Freckelton.

Dartball is a game in which darts are thrown at a large homasote board that resembles a baseball field with colored areas that denote bases. Dartball uses baseball-like rules and scoring. Dartball is simply baseball played with darts on an elaborate board four foot square. The rules are basically baseball rules. There are generally nine players on a team, but teams can consist of any number you wish. Players stand approximately 20 feet from the



Tournament Winner: Christian Church of Demotte The Christian Church of DeMotte dartball members walked away winners in the multi-county dartball tournament held this year.



Sorrowful Mother dartball members placed first in the local KV Dartball League comprised of 10 teams throughout the area. The record for the members of Sorrowful Mother was 38 wins and 16 losses.

board (but players can move in closer if their ability requires) and throw darts underhand or overhand at the board to score hits, strikes, balls, fouls, and outs

according to where the darts land. The game is scored like baseball. People of all ages and skill levels can play dartball. Players range in age from 16 years old and up.

know them. The game is a lot of fun and fairly easy. Anyone can do it. Some of us practice and some don't. It's a casual game and a good hobby."

KV Dartball League President Nick Boersma said, "After I moved back up here after school, I saw it in the church bulletin and thought it would be a fun thing to do on Monday nights. It's fun to see people from around the community. You really get to

DeMotte Christian Church hosted the annual awards banquet this year with food catered by Schnick's Good Eats in Wheatfield. Dartball league members lined up to enjoy a delicious catered dinner of stuffed pork chops, vegetables, salads and more. Guests were also treated to tables lined with deserts for their enjoyment.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by a few of the Christian Church of DeMotte's youth group,

comprised of Jeremy Tillema on guitar, Chris Landis on drums, and Zach Steffel as lead vocalist and guitar.

A brief time was spent on discussing old/new business and the election of new officers for the fall, 2010 league. After the business portion of the evening was presented, awards for the closing season were given, along with door prize drawings.

Major Awards Presented:
Those who had a perfect night, and did not make a single out the entire night included:
Nick Boersma
Aaron Helms (2)
Jerry Koster
Vern Somerton
Robyn Schaetzel
Most Valuable Player of the Year:
Dave Broertjes
Rookie of the Year:
Amber VanKley
Final Standings:
1st Place Team – Sorrowful Mother Wins – 38 Losses – 16

To join dartball league this fall, contact :
Doug Liebke – American Reformed – 987-4407; Joe Demeter – St. Cecilia #1 – 987-6506; Patrick Fraley – Faith Lutheran – 743-0858. Churches interested in starting a team can call Nick Boersma at 987-4407.

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