

MARATHON YOUTH SERVICES
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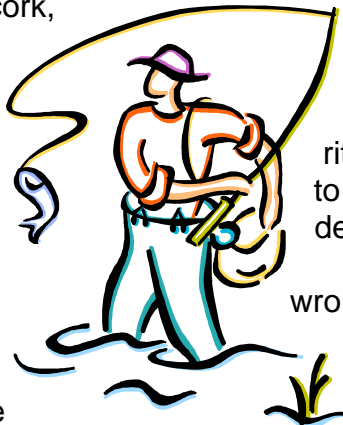
I am not a fisherman...Oh, I know it's almost a sacrilege to admit that in north central Wisconsin, but I thought it was time to come clean. I confess to times in my youth when I succumbed to the 'bonding' experience of early morning forays into the north with equally bewildered male counterparts, only to have to deal with late season snow falls (in May?) and early morning mosquitoes for the right to fight the throngs of other "enthusiasts" on opening day of fishing season. Admittedly, sometimes the day turned into pleasant, warm sunny days on a lake, soaking up the rays and gentle breeze. However, that invariably would be soured by the dip of the cork, and the sudden realization slimy little creature on the end of the line that had to be dealt with.

Then one day it occurred to me that I could enjoy the best of this spring rite, the sun and breeze part, on my deck without having to contend with the downside. I've been a convert to the deck approach to spring and Opening Day ever since.

Now don't get me wrong! I pride myself in my tolerance of other peoples' peculiar delights and ask only for equal consideration in return.

And, I appreciate entirely the importance to others that this financial bonanza presents to our economy. I also see what importance it has in the lives of many of my friends and family. I only ask that they spare me the constant sales pitch, and the endless stories about "the one that got away". I much prefer to while-away the warm, sunny afternoon in other equally pointless activity of my own choosing.

Needless to say, my thoughts on this subject are not shared by many of our residents and staff. We have several in fact, who manage to exercise their obsession almost year around! There's much talk these days of the fishing season rapidly approaching, and how best to use weekends and free time in pursuit of this commonly held passion. While Opening Day next weekend may escape the attention of some, plans are ongoing for fishing and camping outings throughout the spring and summer months. I'm sure you can look for many reports of the prowess of our crowd as they do their part in depleting the stock of "squirming, slimy little creatures".



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1. Doug's thoughts...

*Many of you have noticed that it's **Racing Season** again! There will only be 4 races at Statepark Speedway this year...the final 4. Statepark will be closing its doors; a sad day for area race fans.*

May 19th will be the Flip Merwin Memorial race, then one in June and July. The final run, the Larry Detjens Memorial race, will be run in August. I'll be running and will Lt. Bill Kolb of the Wausau PD. We'll be doing our best to put on a winning show on behalf of MYS. There's a good chance that fans will have the opportunity to see Scott and Chris Wimmer at this final race also. Hope we see you too!

(Anyone looking for a slightly used championship race machine? Driven only once or twice a week.)

*Many of you readers have appeared on our ever popular local access television show, "**Child and Family Focus**". Our original goal was to promote a family centered, community team oriented approach to treatment of our community's children (Northwood's Project). Our second goal was to create a community informational show that aids in networking families and community professionals. Production has been awesome...with many local "celebrities" representing your profession and/or agency.*

The production team of Kelly, Beth, DJ, John and I will be one less real soon. We will soon be losing John Kolhoven to California! John and his wife have accepted new positions in the Sunbelt and will be sorely missed. While we will surely miss Dr. John's input, we plan to continue the show.

We are looking for topics, personalities and events to promote and

celebrate. Call to book your date on the show now. The show will continue to air on Tuesdays at 7am and 10:30pm, and Wednesdays at 5:30pm.

I would also like to take the opportunity to point our readers to the new online newsletter of the Northwoods Alliance For Children. Check it out at <http://www.northwoodsalliance.org/newsletter.html>.

2. April was a busy month at **Reynolds Group Home**, and an important month in Kris' life...he underwent surgery for a long standing medical issue that left him initially with full casts on both legs. He's now down to one cast and recovering very nicely. In fact, he will be starting his physical therapy this week. We all extend Kris our support and encouragement, and hope for a speedy recovery.

Spring cleanup has begun in earnest around the yard. The guys are getting things in shape so Carol can start working on the flower beds. She's not only good at making the indoors look great, but does alright outdoors as well. Her many talents are always appreciated.

This month saw the guys go on a couple of fishing trips (to the Stevens Point area) already this year. While there haven't been any great catches to report yet, the boys were very enthusiastic about the opportunity. RGH staff and residents are working on some great summer plans too. There is talk of more fishing trips, a trip to Devil's Lake State Park, and of course, more camping excursions.

This month also saw spring break from school and the opportunity for some of the guys to spend more time with family. In addition, there was time for a trip out to the Eau Claire Dells Park to watch the spring runoff, as well as a trip to Rib Mountain to climb the look out tower and some of the rocks.

Now the final drive toward the end of another school year begins in earnest. The guys will be focused on success completion of the semester, with an eye on the possibility of summer school.

3. Our **young adults** had a busy April with the month starting off with yet another basketball event, this time the Special Olympics State Tournament at Oshkosh, held on April 1-3. It was a hectic and well attended event, with our guys walking off with second place! Mike S. and Adam were in attendance and had a good overnight in a motel. Now it's time for Track & Field. John F of Grand Place will be competing.



April was a banner month for John at Prospect Place. He not only started a new job at the Thomas Street Dairy Queen, he was also elected president of next season's Tuesday bowling league at Day's Bowl-A-Dome! Way to go John... On that same note, Mike P did some volunteering this month at Neighbor's Place. Good Job Mike!

The guys and staff of Prospect Place and Grand Place made a trip to the Merrill Museum for Railroad Days on Saturday April 9. They also enjoyed a picnic in a park for lunch that day also. **Mike S and Kris (RGH)** were two of the guys attending.



Special Olympics activities were a big part of the month as well. On April 4 Adam was interviewed live on WIFC radio by announcer Paul Bielke about Sp. Olympics. In addition they held their Tootsie Roll Fund Raiser and had a pizza party at God Father's Pizza on April 25. Adam also began assisting the DCE Soccer team as an assistant for practices and games. He runs balls and helps with any other miscellaneous tasks.

Grand Place still has its three residents; John F, Shawn H and Andy T. They soon (June 1st) will be joined by another Shawn, making for a full house. We're all looking forward to him joining us. Welcome Shawn!

4. The Pet Gallery

We're fortunate to have staff that regularly bring their pets to work with them for the guys to share. **Carol** seldom goes anywhere without her best friend, **Bianco**. He keeps her company on her overnights at Reynolds Group Home, and serves as quite a good watch dog as well.



The other homes also have their regular visitors. John F always enjoys the friendship of **Pearl and Otis**, belonging to **Suzanne and Marypat** respectively.

Everyone seems to thoroughly enjoy it when the dogs are around. And of course, the dogs appear just as delighted about the arrangement as the guys.

Another of the favorites is Marypat's other friend, Sasha. This monster's hard not to like...a real crowd pleaser.

John with Otis and Sasha



Shawn and Otis



Friends!

**Watch "Child and Family Focus"
with Doug Adams and Dr. John Kolhoven
every Tuesday at 7:00 AM and 10:30 PM, and Wednesday at 5:30 PM.
Local Public Access Television Channel 3**

If you have any questions or program requests, feel free to contact Doug at 715842-3240 or dadams15@charter.net. We are always interested in your thoughts or comments.

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Produced by Jim Prozinski

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