



Matthew L Hostak

NOV 11, 1962 - JUL 23, 2023



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Matthew L Hostak

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Matthew Lowell Hostak died July 23, 2023 in Oshkosh, WI of cancer. He was born on November 11, 1962 to Jack and Gloria Hostak in St. Joseph, MI. In 1964, he moved with his family to Rochester, MN. After graduating with honors from Mayo High School in 1981, Matt enlisted in the Armed Forces. He served in the U.S. Army two years active duty in Germany, and ten years reserves stateside. Upon discharge from active duty, Matt attended the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire on the G.I. Bill and a collection of baseball cards. He graduated in 1989 with honors with a B.S. in Hydrology, with a secondary emphasis in Geology.

Matt's first and only job out of college was with the State of Wisconsin - Department of Natural Resources.

His most recent position before disability had been that of Air Pollution Engineer. In recent years, he was a frequent volunteer at the Habitat for Humanity Restore.

Matt was a true Renaissance Man, and a bit of an iconoclast. He could fix or make anything he set his mind to, with skill, intellect and improvisational thinking. He championed critical thinking.

Books and magazines were Matt's constant companions: he was a voracious reader. Though his interests were unlimited, he was especially taken with books about life on other planets, spirituality, the supernatural, construction, history and science.

Matt's hobbies over the years included scuba diving, furniture building, salvaging and rehabbing houses, historic Oshkosh, and most recently, privy digging with his friend Bob Bergman. Bob showed Matt the ropes of digging pits at the sites of old outhouses, and he amassed quite the collection of antique bottles and other ephemera of the past.

Most of all, Matt was a kind, generous, and loving soul. Matt never met a stranger and had friends from all walks of life. His Bright Light will forever shine in everyone he touched. He was also quite a cat lover and cared for a passel of cats over the years.



Obituary

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Matt was preceded in death by his dear sister Julie, who died unexpectedly of natural causes on March 30, 2022. He is survived by his loving parents, Jack and Gloria Hostak, cherished brothers Chris Hostak and John M. (Diane) Hostak, fond nephew John C. Hostak (partner Olivia Silva), and beloved longtime friend Laura Ann Day. A private family service will take place at the time of interment at the family cemetery in Kewaunee, WI. Memorials, if desired, may be made to the Poverello Fund, Mayo Clinic, 200 First St. SW, Rochester, MN 55902, which goes to help people afford medical care. Also, St. Croix Hospice, 93 S. Pioneer Rd., Ste 100, Fond du Lac, WI 54935.

See you on the other side, Matt.



Tribute Wall

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Susan shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I met Matt nearly 30 years ago in Green Bay and have always cherished his zest for new things in life, humility, big hearty laugh and drive to master anything he might dare to try. My heart is heavy to hear about his passing and goes out to his family and friends. I am so deeply sorry for your loss. Shine on dear friend.



July 31 at 3:54 AM



Jennifer Marty posted:

Dear Family and Friends of Matt- I knew Matt through the Winnebago County Historical and Archaeological Society and also through my Mother, Jane Westphal, to whom he was a superior friend. Matt was always a willing and enthusiastic helper to the Society and specifically to Mom. Hauling artifacts, moving furniture into, out of and within The Morgan House, setting up and tearing down for Pie on the Porch, yard work, etc. He literally did whatever for her and always with a smile and a quip. I most remember a card he made for her which she kept until her death featuring his beautiful original artwork and a lovely heartfelt personal message. I was grateful to visit with him during his last days so I could tell him thanks... Rest In Peace, Sweet Matt.

July 30 at 3:30 PM



Scott Cross posted:

I first met Matt Hostak when I started working as the Archivist at the Oshkosh Public Museum over 20 years ago. Matt wanted to donate some items to the museum. He and I started talking and found that we shared a mutual interest in, and passion for, historic preservation. We were both concerned about the loss of historic buildings in Oshkosh. This led to many conversations, and Matt started volunteering for me in the Archives. He digitized dozens of historic maps of Oshkosh and Winnebago County. After stepping away from volunteering, he later returned and scanned thousands of historic photographs, more than I could possibly catalog! His work was an invaluable piece of the preservation process at the museum. His interests led him to become an energetic amateur archaeologist. He discovered thousands of historic artifacts, many of these he donated to the Oshkosh Public Museum. His love of local history also led him to serve as a board member for the Winnebago County Historical and Archaeological Society. The Oshkosh community has lost a dedicated advocate for the preservation of local history. Matt contributed to a better understanding of life in our community. He helped tell the story of Oshkosh and his loss will be greatly felt. Scott Cross, BS, MA, Retired Archivist

July 29 at 11:58 AM



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David Borsuk posted:

Please accept my deepest sympathies. Matt was my WDNR compliance contact and he was the ultimate professional. May his memory be a blessing

July 25 at 4:08 PM



Jerry L Porter posted:

Jack and Gloria, I am so sorry for your loss of your Matthew. With shared love, Jerry Heilman Porter

July 25 at 10:22 AM



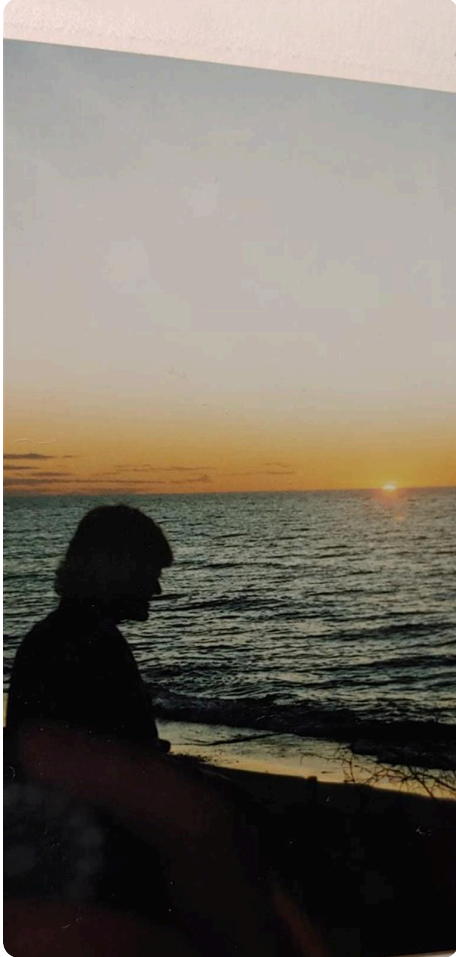
Media

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Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Matthew by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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