

Jacob John Searles, age 46, of Rhinelander, Wis., passed away peacefully early Friday, Sept. 27, 2013 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield, of a stroke, surrounded by his family.

Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2013, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Port Edwards. The Rev. Daniel Bohn will officiate. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. until the time of services at 11 a.m. on Wednesday at the church.

Herman-Taylor Funeral Home and Cremation Center, Wisconsin Rapids, is assisting the family.

Jacob was born Nov. 2, 1966. He arrived at the Searles home Dec. 12, 1967 — the greatest Christmas gift ever — and was welcomed by so many people. He was adopted at the age of 5, the eldest of three brothers. He was adored by his younger siblings and was a constant source of entertainment for them.

He loved cranberry work from an early age — the noise, the machinery, and driving anything he was allowed. He also developed a love of hunting and trapping that he carried with him throughout his life.

Jay was on the YMCA swim team and also was an accomplished skier. During his four years of high school football he excelled on the field in addition to his other passion of amusing his teammates.

After graduation from John Edwards High School in 1985, he attended and later graduated from the University of Minnesota-Waseca with a degree in Mechanized Agriculture. During this time he spent two summers in Nantucket, Mass., learning more about the cranberry trade. Jacob spent most of his life on cranberry marshes.

He helped his dad start the C-J Searles Cranberry marsh, but left to spend a couple of years in the mill. Jacob's passion for cranberries never ended and he managed several divisions for Northland Cranberries as well as James Lake Farms in Three Lakes.

His marriage to Josie Henke Searles ended in divorce, but also gave him his darling Savannah. He was a great dad and loved the role.

He married Sharon Nelson Searles and adopted her daughter, Stephanie, and they also had a son, Jacob.

After the divorce, all three of his children lived with him much of the time and became his favorite job and greatest joy.

In 2003, he married Ruth Picl Searles and she became his partner in all of their endeavors.

Jacob is survived by his parents, Clare and Charlotte; his wife, Ruth; his children, Savannah (Devin) of Three Lakes, Stephanie, Mauston, and Jacob, Necedah; his brother, Corey (Kate); nieces, Maggie and Gillian; and brother, Steve (Britt).

Also, stepchildren, Andrea (Dan) Prendota and Zach (Serena) Kundinger; and seven stepgrandchildren.

He also is survived by his birth sister, Sarah (Richard) Rasmussen Skiba of California; and his nieces and nephews, Anna, Mary, Adam and Ricky.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, who adored him, Russell and Bertha Pierce, and Clarence and Katherine Searles. Also, favorite uncles, Bill Pierce and Wilton Burgeson; and an infant sister, Amy Michelle.

Jacob was in all ways a generous and compassionate person. His time with us was too short and he will be greatly missed.

Memorials may be designated to the American Diabetes Association or the International Bipolar Foundation.

PAID OBITUARY__PUBLIC__