

Letters from MRFY- October 8, 2022

Boxing Winter

Its Long John Season.

The phrase long johns conjure up a variety of images; a one-legged pirate in search of treasure, custard filled elongated baked goods with chocolate glistening on the top and lastly, woolen flannels that act as a second layer during the cool season. Rumor has it that the term "long john" was inspired by 19th century bare knuckles boxing champion John L Sullivan aka "The Boston Strong Boy" who entered the boxing ring wearing only his "long johns". My grandfather wore long johns year-round; his neckline stained yellow with sweat and dirt even in the summer heat. For me; long john season is the most wonderful time of the year. I've often told people that I "tolerate" summer with its sweltering heat and unforgiving humidity in order to get to this time of season when frost lined grass greets our little community in the morning and whirlwinds of fallen leaves chase each other in the evening. In my neck of the woods, the small Barred Owls are in full throat, fighting along the Spruce Hill Ridge with their battle cry that is often described as "WHO COOKS FOR YOU!" ringing through the trees. All that's missing is the soft "clip clop" of horseshoes on the pavement and a gentleman name Ichabod Crane nervously whistling and sweating.

Magic times. Magic island. Magic season.

AS with the weather, the MRF is in transition. The giant fans and summer equipment are being stashed away. The Island Closet was dismantled October 1st and we are in the process of moving back in after another wildly successful year of upcycling clothes and household items. Congratulations to Gwen and the long list of volunteers and visitors on making the MRF Experience more unique. We are in the process of "Clearing the floor"-getting rid of all our recycling so we can start the year on a fresh foot. I submitted our annual RUG Grant to the Wisconsin DNR on September 29th and as part of our application process included giving rationales for our numbers and variations. I submitted the following:

"The inflationary impact of the current economy on both projected wages and residual cost of processing materials will have a significant impact on 2023. This coupled with the dramatic decrease in the sale of marketable recyclables due to short term and long-term recessionary fears will have an impact on our total numbers. We are also 2 years into a management change, so we are still trying to establish an accurate baseline of RUG reporting criteria based on these operational changes."

This job has made me an economics nerd. Can ya tell?

Dave has been pulling double duty as both Recycling Specialist and Roads Assistant with Ben and the Crew. I am super grateful for his talents and energy as he concludes his first summer and wades into his first island winter here on the Rock. Keep up the Great Work Dave!

In the coming weeks I will be working on our new solid waste contract, continuing to help with the new Budget season as well as the daily operations here and prepping for..."The S Word"...when we wade into winter in our long johns, fists raised high in our finest pugilistic stance and Box Winter for the next 4.5 months in the spirit of John L Sullivan. Cheers.

As always,

Have a MR Ftastic DAY!

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