Marlette’s Sullivan progressing 23 years after lightning strike

Marlette’s John Sullivan continues to make progress after having been struck by lightning 23 years ago while golfing in East Lansing. The son of Richard and Marcia Sullivan, he will observe his 41st birthday on November 8th of this year.

Recently, Richard Sullivan offered an update on John’s condition as he continues to live with his parents in their Marlette Township home. “He is happy, healthy and seems quite content. He is not able to do much of anything with his arms and hands, but does have some movement in his legs and hips. He can, and does, stand with help balancing when “he” decides to do it.

“Just two weeks ago, he stood faster than I’ve ever seen him do it. His therapist who was working with him at the time was amazed. She has been working with him for the last year or so and has seen him stand three or four times.

“The efforts of a number of therapists have had a very positive affect on him. He likes having them come though sometimes it’s very hard for him.

“We have lots of sounds and noises, but few words. He likes getting cards and reads them all. Tests done in the nineties showed that he is processing 95% of everything he sees and hears. His brain is functioning at a very high level. The lightning damaged a small area that affects fine motor movement and skills.

“He has had the same doctor in Lansing since day one. He goes for a physical every year and has had no health problems for many years.

“John now has a niece and nephew (twins) who visit often and he enjoys helping watch them and having them on the foot of his bed watching Godzilla movies and eating lunch and dinner there.

“All in all he is doing quite well. Progress had been slow but, as seen in the picture, steady and sure. We have much to be thankful for.”