

# **Wausau Rotary**

## **2011 Japan Group Study Exchange April 28-May 1, 2011**

### **Event Summary**

The Rotary Club of Wausau and Wausau Early Bird Rotary Club jointly participated in a Rotary Foundation Group Study Exchange (GSE) by hosting a five member team from Japan from April 28 to May 1, 2011. The GSE program provides travel grants for teams to exchange visits in paired areas of different countries. Team members experience the host country's culture and institutions, observe how their vocations are practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas. The Rotary Club of Wausau has regularly participated in GSE's every few years; this was the Early Bird Club's first experience.

The team from Japan consisted of two woman and three men with varying vocational livelihoods and an age range of 26 to 52. Tom and Jane Cane, Ken and Tina Moberg, and Diane Postler-Slattery and family served as hosts while they were in the Wausau area. In addition to the host families, more than 30 Rotary members attended a special luncheon meeting of the groups, and another dozen members provided transportation to and from the numerous activities that were organized.. Among these were visits to the Fromm Brothers Fox Museum, Greenheck Fan, the Weston Power plant, Mosinee Papers, Point Brewery and the Munson Bridge Winery in Withee. David Finkbiner organized the exchange on behalf of the Rotary Club of Wausau.

Rotary was founded on the idea of building business/personal relationships, and using these as levers for the betterment of the community. The Group Study Exchanges provide a venue for the interaction of cultures, and for communication and learning. They provide for human interaction at a very personal level and demonstrate that all people love to laugh, have fun and learn. We all have families and common concerns. The end result is the formation of new relationships with a better understanding of each other, of people in general, and of the world. These new relationships will be used to better our human community-the essence of Rotary.

The following photos are from the GSE luncheon hosted by the two Wausau rotary clubs:

