

TGIF Taking Great Ideas Forward

Improving Northern Capital - Sustainable Development in the Northern Tier

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“Start by doing what's necessary, then what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

-Francis of Assisi -

MEETINGS and EVENTS:

Links will provide additional information. Dates for recent additions are in **bold**.

<i>What</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Where</i>
Stream Monitor Training**	May 19 th	All Day	Duluth – Lester Park
BCEDC Board Meeting	June 11 th	10 AM – noon	TBA
2007 Entrepreneur's Conference	June. 12-13	All day	Milwaukee
Aquaculture Field Day & Vendor Fair	June 14 – 15	All Day	Bayfield & Red Cliff - NADF
Inland Sea Kaya Symposium	June 14-17	All Day	Washburn WI
Midwest Renewable Energy Fair	June 15-17	All Day	Custer, WI
Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference & Workshops	June 21 & 22	All Day	Telemark Lodge, Cable
Pie & Politics	June 28 th	Evening	Big Top Chautauqua
Lake Superior Day	July 15 th	All Day	Lake Superior Basin

** For Information call: **Sue O'Halloran UW-Superior Extension 715-394-8525**

PLEASE NOTE: The **Midwest Renewable Energy Fair** is held in Custer, WI, not as previously listed in Amherst, WI. I am intent on making a day trip to the Fair on Friday, June 15th. My van will accommodate a few extra passengers. If you are interested in joining me, please call.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LIFE

World-leading scientific institutions have announced the launch of the Encyclopedia of Life (EOL) (<http://eol.org/>), an unprecedented global effort to document all 1.8 million named species of animals, plants, and other forms of life on Earth.

E.O. Wilson, Professor Emeritus from Harvard University, who has for decades championed the cause of preserving biodiversity and has recently engaged the energy of the faith community in the effort, is recognized in a press release from EOL as a major reason for the recent acceleration in this project. Underway since the early 1990s, Wilson's speech at the 2006 **Technology, Entertainment and Design (TED) Conference** is credited with motivating a cluster of preeminent institutions to back the project. Support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (\$10 million) and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation (\$2.5 million) goes a long way to energize the project. Institutions on-board include: **Field Museum of Natural History, Harvard University, Marine Biological Laboratory, Missouri Botanical Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Biodiversity Heritage Library, American Museum of Natural History, Natural History Museum, New York Botanical Garden, and Royal Botanic Gardens.**

This new encyclopedia is described as a “wiki-style” and will emulate **Wikipedia** but with the caveat of being “moderated” probably meaning that there will be some review of content by a panel of individuals with authority to referee what is in and what is out. Moderation of Wiki content goes against the grain of some Wiki purists but has some considerable virtue of potentially protecting the reputation of the work. Wikipedia still suffers from negative reactions generated in its early life on the Internet.

Wikipedia has certain shortcomings certainly but robustness of article coverage has been amazing. Perhaps most important is a recent increase in the citation of sources and addition of external reference links. These enable the reader to confirm sources and surely goes a long way to mitigate the impact of mis-information.

Judging from the sample pages provided, the Encyclopedia of Life will actually expand the range of linkages, potentially becoming a primary channel to global literature for each of the millions of species that will over the next decade be posted to the encyclopedia. Just imagine, one stop shopping for information about even the most obscure brachiopod, bryophyte or bacillus. This resource will make me green with envy of those kids just beginning study of zoology, botany and microbiology. This in just fifty years from textbooks that almost never included color illustrations and state college libraries that too frequently could barely make do.

Dr. **James Edwards**, the encyclopedia's newly named executive director, who is currently executive secretary of the Copenhagen-based **Global Biodiversity Information Facility** said, "Even five years ago, we could not create such a resource, but advances in technology for searching, annotating, and visualizing information now permit us -- indeed, mandate us -- to build the Encyclopedia of Life."

Contemporary students of all ages and active scientists will have free and open access to a learning environment that is resource rich with downloadable, multimedia information. The goal is to include all known living species. Once in place the Encyclopedia of Life will likely provide almost instant access to the most recently discovered species and up-to-date information about those species that are threatened or endangered.

Take care and have a great weekend!

/BRUCE

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Bruce Lindgren is Principal of [B.Lindgren CONSULTING](#). The consulting practice serves small business, local government, school districts and non-profits providing support for research, grant development, technical writing, marketing support and project management. Bruce brings his background in biological sciences, education, small business and media technology to generate and implement ideas contributing solutions to mission critical challenges.

In addition Bruce maintains the following affiliations:

[Bayfield County Economic Development Corporation](#), (BCEDC) Director

[Inland Sea Society](#), (ISS) Director

[Lake Superior Binational Forum](#), (LSBF) US Delegation Co-Chair

[Raindrop Garden Gallery](#), (RGG) Co-owner

[IDEA Consortium LLC](#), Owner

[Chequamegon Institute, Inc.](#) Initial Registered Agent

[Coalition for Eco-Industrial Development](#), (CEID) Work Group Member

[Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board](#), (WIB) Member

The encircled fractal triangle represents an integrated cluster of seven ideas – economics, ecology, equity, ethics, experience, education and energy – that may be considered a core for sustainability studies. Bruce is available to present illustrated lectures and facilitate discussions about Industrial Ecology, Sustainable Development and the Sustainability Revolution.