

# TGIF Taking Great Ideas Forward

Improving Northern Capital - Sustainable Development in the Northern Tier

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***“In peace the sons bury their fathers and in war the fathers bury their sons.”***

**-Francis Bacon-**

## 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>
<a href="#">Biodiesel Study Group</a>	Mondays (all)	7:00-8:30 PM	Washburn Library
<a href="#">Superior Days Planning</a>	Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Noon	WITC - Superior
BCEDC Board Meeting	Jan. 14 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 AM -noon	Washburn Library
<a href="#">Conservation Lobby Day</a>	Jan. 30 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am & On	Madison
<b><a href="#">National Entrepreneurship Week</a> Feb 23 – Mar 1</b>			
<a href="#">Superior Days</a>	Feb. 26-27	All Day	Madison
<a href="#">Great Lakes Day</a>	Feb. 28 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Washington DC
<a href="#">Fusion 2008</a>	March 5-6	All Day	Madison, Fluno Center
<a href="#">Sustainable Business Conference</a>	April 24-25	All Day	Ashland
<a href="#">Business Development Conference</a>	<b>May 7 &amp; 8</b>	All Day	Cable, Lakewoods
<a href="#">Green By Design Conference</a>	June 12-13	All Day	Washington DC area
<a href="#">Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference</a>	<b>June 19 &amp; 20</b>	All Day	Cable, Telemark

## Primaries

By the time you receive this the **Iowa** caucus will be history and some Democrat and some Republican will likely be a “front runner.” That is until next week when voters in **New**

**Hampshire** will most surely change the election picture in the Presidential sweeps. A few of the candidates will begin dropping out perhaps throwing support to others; perhaps holding out for other opportunities – the vice-presidency or a third-party candidacy.

With all the money spent on these early events, one has to wonder if there isn't a better way to select among literally hundreds of potentially qualified people to do the job of leading the nation and the free world. You might guess that I don't expect my favorite candidates to finish in the running. It was estimated by **Judy Woodruff** of **PBS** that the \$100 million spent by all candidates in Iowa amounted to approximately \$400 for each caucus attendee.

Whew!

The money bought some unusual items including snow shovels for caucus captains to make sure nobody stayed out for lack of a cleared sidewalk.

Well good!

The caucuses and primaries are probably a bit better than the smoke filled rooms that nominated candidates before 1960. Fights over delegate seating through credentialing was just another back channel way to improve the situation for one candidate or another. With the current system, a state's vote for a candidate, at least for the first convention ballot, is pretty well assured. It is hard to remember the last convention that required more than one ballot for selecting a candidate for President. The good old days of the good old boys is notably well gone and being replaced by a system that, with many faults remaining, is an improvement.

TV journalism seems almost as intent on hyping itself as in providing any in-depth revelations about the issues. When **CNN**, led by **Wolf Blitzer**, keeps spinning the slogan “the best political team on television” one should probably receive a discount of about 100%. Real news about “issues that matter most” is lost amid the hype and repetition. Creating and keeping a TV audience is paramount.

Our democracy still has room for improvement. But, at least, we don't assassinate our candidates with bombs and bullets. We let them figuratively kill off each other with big bundles of bucks.

## **LIGHTER SIDE:**

As with most jokes the original author is unknown. Whoever you are; “Thanks!” Names, when added, are intended to tease the innocent.

New Year's Resolutions for Internet Junkies...

I will try to figure out why I “really need” 9 e-mail addresses.

I will stop sending e-mail to my wife (husband).

I will answer my snail mail with the same enthusiasm with which I answer my e-mail.

I will stop sending e-mail, ICQ, Instant Messages and be on the phone at the same time with the same person.

I resolve to back up my 120GB hard drive daily...well, once a week... okay, monthly then...or maybe...

I will spend less than one hour a day on the Internet. This, of course, will be hard

to estimate since I'm not a clock watcher.  
When I hear a funny joke I will not reply, "LOL... LOL!"  
I will read the manual... just as soon as I can find it.  
I will think of a password other than "password."  
I will stop checking my e-mail at 3:00 in the morning... 4:30 is much more practical.  
I resolve... I resolve to... I resolve to, uh... I resolve to, uh, get my, er...  
I resolve to, uh, get my, er, off-line work done, too!

Take care and enjoy 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 role of education in Industrial Ecology, Sustainable Development and the Sustainability Revolution.*