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“For I imagine we are not striving merely to secure victory for my suggestions or for yours; rather we ought both of us to fight in support of the truth and the whole truth.”

-Socrates-

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>
Biodiesel Study Group	Mondays (all)	7:00-8:30 PM	Washburn Library
BCEDC Board Meeting	Feb 11 th	10:00-noon	Washburn Library
National Entrepreneurship Week Feb 23 – Mar 1			
Superior Days	Feb. 26-27	All Day	Madison
Great Lakes Day	Feb. 28 th	All Day	Washington DC
Inventors and Entrepreneurs Club	March 6 th	5:30	Casablanca Traders Coffeehouse (Hwy 2 & 63)
Fusion 2008	March 5-6	All Day	Madison, Fluno Center
BCEDC Board Meeting	March 10th	10:00 -Noon	Washburn Library
Sustainable Business Conference	April 24-25	All Day	Ashland
Business Development Conference	May 7 & 8	All Day	Cable, Lakewoods
Green By Design Conference	June 12-13	All Day	Washington DC area
Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference	June 19 & 20	All Day	Cable, Telemark

Thinking about it!

I made the mistake of talking last week and this week about my process for getting TGIF done every Friday morning. One conversation slipped into two and then another. Pretty soon I was thinking about TGIF production rather than actually doing it.

That was dangerous because this morning I spent time thinking about writing rather than writing. That doesn't work for me.

Much of my thinking was occupied with pieces of email I received from **Fred Strand**, WI DNR Wildlife Biologist, who lives nearby in **Oulu**. I usually run into Fred in connection with some civic event or another as he and I seem to have similar interests. Earlier we both attended an event that I can't at the moment remember and then, again, last night we both attended the annual training session for the **Superior Days** delegation. Unfortunately we rarely have much time to explore our mutual interests in depth. That is regrettable because I have frequently had leaps of insight suggesting that Fred has a lot of depth of thought to offer. I know for example that he has a deep interest in education but apart from a modestly extended conversation a couple of years ago about the **South Shore Schools Foundation**, for which he was a major maker and shaker, we have not returned to the education topic.

Maybe I was on Fred's mind because Thursday morning I received an email forwarded by Fred from his colleague (maybe his boss) at DNR, Wildlife Ecologist **Bill Vander Zouwen**. Bill had recently returned from the **Midwest AG Energy Network Conference**. The forwarded email was a brief recap of the conference. It was stimulating and I commented in a reply to Fred that it is unfortunate that we don't have a light-pipe between Madison and northwestern Wisconsin so we can more easily experience great events as was, apparently, this event. Later Fred forwarded a longer email from Bill highlighting more of the conference and I was convinced that this one should not have been missed. ([Agenda and speaker bios](#))

The highlights run to over three pages of small type. Bill, who I have not met, is obviously a copious note-taker and an excellent reporter. His report is filled with facts and factoids, but raises some thoughts and questions that should be explored.

What follows are some random thoughts and quotes from Bill Vander Zouwen's great notes.

For example Bill notes that the keynote speaker (Randy Udall) said: *the question about what will power us after oil is the most profound question facing society. We have created a civilization based on low cost energy. How are we going to sustain our civilization for another century?*

That set me to thinking.

What about the coal and oil reserves? What about good old fashioned sunshine? After all that is what put the coal and oil in storage a few millions of years ago. I wonder, sometimes, if we don't have to fashion our thinking to fit beyond a few centuries. Best case presentations suggest the Canadian tar sands will, perhaps, last 150 years; and Wyoming coal will be good for two to three centuries.

Humm!

Now assuming we don't pollute our atmosphere with CO₂ and methane within that time frame making this little blue orb too hot for any life, what are we (of course, I really mean our ancestral "we") going to do after the coal and oil are gone?

Perhaps we will have discovered how to pull the CO₂ (and methane) out of the atmosphere and make more oil and coal. But, of course, we don't have to discover how to deal with the CO₂, the process has been well established for around three-billion years. Algae did well back then and maybe they can do well now. We can outfit them in big plastic bags and rock them gently in the sunlight. Siphon off a few and squeeze out some oil for biofuel. Pour the fuel in your tank and away we go. We could probably still get to work without thinking about it.

Whew!

Perhaps what we really need is a cheap source of pressure and time.

And a reality check!

LIGHTER SIDE:

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

An old man with terrible hearing has just gotten an amazing hearing aid. He goes to his friend to tell him about it.

The old man, who's name is Conrad, raves about his new hearing aid.

"It is made of glass so you can't even see it! It has so much power in it. It's almost impossible to break as well. I love it!"

His friend asks, "What kind is it?"

Conrad looks at his watch. "Quarter to three."

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.