

TGIF

Taking Great Ideas Forward

Improving Northern Capital - Sustainable Development in the Northern Tier

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author and do not reflect positions of organizations with which he is affiliated.

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“You cannot teach a man anything; you can only help him find it within himself.”

-Galileo Galilei-

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>
Bioenergy Forum	April 8th	9:00-3:00	Ashland – AmericInn Conference Center
Herbster Smelt Fry	April 12 th	3:00 – 7:30	Herbster's Historic Gymnasium
BCEDC Board Meeting	April 14 th	10:00 – noon	Washburn Library
Biofuels Conference	April 16 & 17	All Day	UW – Stevens Point
Sustainable Business Conference	April 24-25	All Day	Ashland
Business Development Conference	May 7 & 8	All Day	Cable, Lakewoods
Digital Healthcare Conference	May 7 & 8	All Day	Madison
BCEDC Annual Meeting	May 12 th	10:00 – noon	TBA
Manufacturing Advantage 2008	May 21	All Day	UW-Stout
Green By Design Conference	June 12-13	All Day	Washington DC area
Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility Field Days	June 12–13	All Day	Red Cliff / Bayfield
Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference	June 19 & 20	All Day	Cable, Telemark

DRIVING

Popcorn and Policy brought me to **Michigan Technological University** in Houghton Michigan. Tuesday afternoon, after a committee meeting for the **NW Workforce Investment Board** in Ashland and lunch with **Jerry Hembd**, I drove to Houghton, uncertain about snowy, icy roads and drive time. Fortunately the roads were wet but fine and the drive time was considerably less than predicted by Google maps. After a brief drive through the MTU campus looking for the Forestry Building where the Popcorn and Policy event was to happen, I found the Franklin Square Best Western where I had reserved a room. Plenty of time to have bite to eat and get to the meeting.

Right!

Unfortunately I didn't anticipate the time zone difference. At five minutes to six, by my watch, comfortable from a great hamburger and a glass of excellent ale, I realized the delicate difference and made a mad rush to the Forestry Building. My lateness was generously tolerated and I greatly enjoyed participating, representing the **Lake Superior Binational Forum**, in a panel with three other invitees; **Katie Alvord**, **Jay Glase** and **Alex Mayer**.

This semester's Popcorn and Policy event carried a theme of Lake Superior issues and was sponsored by **Engineers without Borders** and its leader **Joe Dammel**, who I discovered grew up close to my 28-year work-home, **Normandale College** in Bloomington, MN. A co-sponsor was the **Society of Environmental Engineers** led by **Nora Peterson**.

Alex is a faculty member at MTU specializing in hydrogeology. His presentation focused on stream ecology and brought up the issues and impacts of sulfide mining in the upper peninsula. He pointed out that the proposed Kennecott mine at the Yellow Dog plains will threaten the only known productive breeding habitat for the Coaster Brook Trout on the south shore of Lake Superior.

Jay, a fisheries biologist, has been with the National Park Service for several years. A graduate of **Northland College** in Ashland, Jay commented on Aquatic Invasive Species and launched a discussion about AIS transport and the importance of regulating ballast water exchange for great lakes ships.

Katie is a freelance journalist and author of a book I intend to read soon. The book ***“Divorce Your Car! Ending the Love Affair with the Automobile.”*** The amazing thing about Katie is that she lives in a very rural area of the UP about 11 miles from the Houghton-Hancock area. Although her husband owns a car, she is committed to a bicycle and hiking shoes; rain, snow or whatever is also thrown at postal delivery notwithstanding. As a freelance writer she is able to go to work each morning, as she says, *in her slippers*. We should all be working to make this our fortune. Of course, real talent is a big help.

Now I'll send out TGIF, get dressed and drive to Superior. Aargh!

LIGHTER SIDE:

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

"You kids today have it easy. When I was a kid everything was HUGE. My dad was nearly four times bigger than me. You couldn't even see the tops of counters... Then gradually everything became smaller until it was the manageable size it is today."

Bizarro (comic strip)

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 Chair

[Bayfield CountyLakes Forum](#), Board Secretary

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

[IDEA Consortium LLC](#), Owner

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

[Coalition for Eco-Industrial Development](#), (CEID) Acting President & CEO

[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.