

TGIF Taking Great Ideas Forward

Improving Northern Capital - Sustainable Development in the Northern Tier

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Herbster, WI July 25th – Volume 4: Number 30 [Back Issues](#)

“There are two ways to live your life, one is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is.”

-Albert Einstein-

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>
WIN Technology Conference	August 7 th	8:00 am – 3:00 pm	WITC Ashland
Inventors & Entrepreneurs Club	August 7 th	5:30 PM	Coffee Shop US 2 & 63
BCEDC Board Meeting	August 11 th	10:00 – Noon	Washburn Library
2008 Resource Rendezvous	August 28	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Marshfield Clinic
Lake Superior Binational Forum	Sept 5-6	All Day Fri. , 8-12 Sat.	Houghton, MI
Sustainable Communities & Farms	Sept 11 & 12	All day	Oconomowoc, WI
Northshore In-line Half Marathon	Sept 13 th	7:30 AM	Two Harbors to Duluth
Bioneers Conference 2008	Oct. 17-19	All Day	San Rafael, California

Reflections on Lake Superior Day

Throughout a most productive life as a scientist, Albert Einstein wrote with amazing alacrity about the unknown, the mystical. The poetry of his writing is fascinating and a source of wonder that reflects his imagination about universal questions. Does he mean miracles in a theological sense? I don't think so. He seems to express his own wonderment – not worry – about our life on a little blue orb that is hurtling through a vast space. That we wonder about our place in the universe is cause for wonder about the miracle of the human spirit.

Lake Superior is a miracle that can soar through a spectrum from poetry to hard science. Lake Superior is first about water. But if it was only about water, a spectacular array of scientific explanations would enable us to dismiss the miracle of this Great Lake. Try as we might to understand, manage, preserve and protect OUR Lake, we will remain ignorant of the incredible

complexity of even small parts of the Lake's ecosystem. The celebrations last weekend are a start to make respect for our Lake a priority. Respect will come from deep education, a combination of spirit and hard science. The Native American and First Nation Drum Ceremonies that signaled LSD celebrations are a poignant reminder of the miracle and spirit that pervades this outstanding, life-supporting resource.

The Wisconsin celebrations I attended in Herbster and Superior, just two of over forty throughout the Lake Superior basin, included opportunities for young folks to enjoy fun activities, including kite flying. Finding avenues for connecting learning with fun activity is a strategic idea that environmental educators have long recognized to fuel success.

Environmental education in Wisconsin is supported by the **Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAEE)**, which has its headquarters at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. Local representation on the WAEE board, includes current member **Kathleen Sill**. She has taught seventh grade math at **Ashland Middle School** since 2001. Kathleen recently completed a Master's in Environmental Education; her master's project connected seventh grade students to Lake Superior, their community and environment through mathematics. Presently, she serves as the district's school forest coordinator and canoe club leader.

Anni Schneider, physics instructor at **Ashland High School**, has a strong commitment to hands-on learning as evidenced by the involvement of her students in the computer recycling program, **LongRun**, that was sponsored by the **Inland Sea Society** a few years ago. Her students were remarkably curious, and linked discarded computer parts with important environmental considerations; keeping electronics out of landfills. Recently Anni mentioned a great educational experience for physics students. **Valley Fair**, an amusement park southwest of Minneapolis, sponsors a day-long event each Spring during which students use their mathematical skills and principles of physics to assess the velocities, accelerations and force vectors generated by the amusement rides; miracles from our built environment like those Einstein used imaginatively in thinking about relativity.

It seem to me that one very significant key to environmental education is to make sure our children have robust opportunities to experience the outdoors. **No Child Left Inside** is a new initiative to engage K-12 kids in getting outdoors. [An artful and instructive VIDEO](#), widely disseminated by **YouTube**, calls attention to the learning opportunities presented when the multiple miracles in fields, woods and waters are encountered.

A Lake Superior Day theme that began this year was “**Go Fly A Kite**,” the brain-child of Lake Superior Binational Forum Coordinator **Lissa Radke**. The theme celebrates the Lake in a symbolic way, calling attention to the air and the power of wind. I hope TGIF Readers might pause and think about the science that can be taught from the simple act of flying a kite.

Perhaps the most important thing we can do to protect natural resources, like Lake Superior, is to assure well educated kids and provide the kids with a healthy economy. A healthy economy is so much more than wealth, money flow and jobs; though, of course, it includes all of that. It means that we assure our children that their choices are not limited by what we have done to the air, water, soil and ecosystems of the planet. Clean air, drinkable water, productive soil and healthy ecosystems will assure a healthy economy. Degraded air, water, soil and ecosystems will limit economic choices.

The Sunday celebrations of Lake Superior are symbolic, spiritual and scientific. The Lake Superior Binational Program's [vision for Lake Superior](#) begins with a poetic expression that “Water is life, and the quality of water determines the quality of life.” The poetry recognizes the miracle of life. Water is chemically H₂O. Physical chemistry helps us understand water's properties. But without the miraculous properties of this fluid, life would not be possible.

LIGHTER SIDE:

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

GENTLE THOUGHTS

- The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.
- Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know 'why' I look this way.
- I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.
- When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

Take care and enjoy a great weekend!

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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

[Bayfield CountyLakes Forum](#), Board Secretary

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

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

[IDEA Consortium LLC](#), *Owner*

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

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

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

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

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.