

# TGIF Taking Great Ideas Forward

Improving Northern Capital - Sustainable Development in the Northern Tier

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***“I attribute the little I know to my not having been ashamed to ask for information, and to my rule of conversing with all descriptions of men on those topics that form their own peculiar professions and pursuits.”***

**-John Locke-**

## 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>
Inventors & Entrepreneurs Club	Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Cassablanca Coffee House Ashland (Hwy 2 & 63)
Lake Superior Binational Forum	Nov. 7 & 8	All Day Fri. , 8-12 Sat.	Thunder Bay, ON
BCEDC Board Meeting	<b>Nov. 10<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00- noon	Cable (location TBD)
Rustic Roads Board Meeting	<b>Nov. 10<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 am - noon	Madison
<a href="#">Synergy 2008</a>	Nov. 12 & 13	All Day	UW River Falls
<a href="#">Northland Bioneers Conference</a>	Nov. 14 - 16	All Day	Twin Cities

## Lands and Waters

I was pleased to learn that **Ruth Oppedahl** has been appointed the **Lake Superior Basin Educator**. As Lake Superior Basin Educator, Ruth will be part of UW Extension and **Wisconsin's Basin Education Initiative**. She will work with a talented group of UWEX specialists who pursue **Aldo Leopold's** vision that *a true conservation ethic will evolve only when citizens, not just government alone, take responsibility for managing and protecting our lands and waters.*

Ruth's previous work with the **Bayfield Regional Conservancy** was exemplary. A graduate of **Carlton College** and **UW Steven Point**, Ruth brought to our region both keen intelligence and quietly intense commitment to conservation values. The BRC is a non-profit land trust “dedicated to protecting natural lands, waters, forests, farms and places of scenic, spiritual and historic value in the Bayfield Region.” Ruth literally created *de novo* her job as BRC's Executive Director. Starting from a base near zero, Ruth recruited a Board and raised both visibility and

money for land conservation projects in the Bayfield Region. Protection and preservation of Bayfield orchards has been notable among a [long list of accomplishments](#).

Ruth's leaving BRC will leave the organization with a challenge to find a replacement. TGIF Readers may be able to help by recommending candidates. The position description is available from the [BRC Web site](#). Look for the "Latest News" button at the bottom of the home page.

Another champion of conservancy, **Jane Anklam**, Northwoods Land Protection Coordinator for the [West Wisconsin Land Trust](#), contacted me recently to inquire about a role for **Friends of South Shore Estuaries (FoSSE)** in preparation for acquisition of an important piece of privately held land that will provide critical protection for the **Bark River**. The Bark has been designated as prime habitat for potential restoration of breeding of the Coaster Brook Trout. **Trout Unlimited**, and its Wild Rivers Chapter President **Chuck Campbell**, has been heavily involved in this project. In addition to habitat preservation for the Coaster Brook Trout, the Bark, as a tributary to Lake Superior, also supports the Bark Bay Freshwater Estuary, a natural area that was on the short list of candidates for designation as a **National Estuarine Research Reserve**. The Bark is one of a few remaining pristine streams that feed Lake Superior. Many more streams, of course, are beautiful in their own unique ways. However, for many Lake Superior tributaries, land use practices beginning with the cut over in the late 1800s, continue to impact the quality of water flowing to Lake Superior. Practice of grain-seed agriculture with annual tillage has raised the specter of siltation. As testimony to the abuse of upland in the Wisconsin Lake Superior basin, we continue to see Lake Superior with a rim of red clay silt following rain storms.

The work of conserving natural habitat in the basin uplands is critically important in protection of Lake Superior's waters. The late **Walt Bressette** said "We must always remember that water is always more precious than gold."

## **LIGHTER SIDE:**

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

### **Sub-Prime**

*A New Orleans lawyer sought an FHA (Federal Housing Administration) loan for a client who lost his house in Hurricane Katrina and wanted to rebuild. He was told the loan would be granted if he could prove satisfactory title to the parcel of property being offered as collateral.*

*The title to the property dated back to 1803, which took the Lawyer three months to track down. After sending the information to the FHA, he received the following reply:*

#### **Actual Letter**

*"Upon review of your letter adjoining your client's loan application, we note that the request is supported by an Abstract of Title. While we compliment the able manner in which you have prepared and presented the application, we must point out that you have only cleared title to the proposed collateral property back to 1803. Before final approval can be accorded, it will be necessary to clear the title back to its origin."*

*Annoyed, the lawyer responded as follows:*

#### **Actual Letter**

*"Your letter regarding title in Case No. 189156 has been received."*

*I note that you wish to have title extended further than the 194 years covered by the present application. I was unaware that any educated person in this country, particularly those working in the property area, would not know that Louisiana was purchased, by the US, from France in 1803, the year of origin identified in our application. For the edification of uninformed FHA bureaucrats, the title to the land prior to US ownership was obtained from France, which had acquired it by Right of Conquest from Spain. The land came into the possession of Spain by Right of Discovery made in the year 1492 by a sea captain named Christopher Columbus, who had been granted the privilege of seeking a new route to India by the Spanish monarch, Isabella.*

*The good queen, Isabella, being a pious woman and almost as careful about titles as the FHA, took the precaution of securing the blessing of the Pope before she sold her jewels to finance Columbus's expedition. Now the Pope, as I'm sure you may know, is the emissary of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and God, it is commonly accepted, created this world. Therefore, I believe it is safe to presume that God also made that part of the world called Louisiana .*

*God, therefore, would be the owner of origin and His origins date back to before the beginning of time, the world, as we know it AND the FHA. I hope you find God's original claim to be satisfactory.*

*Now, may we have our #@\*! loan?"*

*He got the loan!*

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

[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.*