

TGIF

Taking Great Ideas into the Future

Building a sustainable economy in Wisconsin's Chequamegon Region



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

Herbster, WI, December 22nd , 2006 – Volume 2: Number 51

“I have tried simply to write the best I can. Sometimes I have good luck and write better than I can.”

-Ernest Hemingway-

MEETINGS and EVENTS:

Links will provide additional information. Dates for new additions are in **bold**.

<i>What</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>here</i>
Inventors & Entrepreneur's Club	Jan 4 th	5:30 PM	Iron River Community Center
BCEDC Board Meeting	Jan. 8 th	10 AM – Noon	TBA
Lake Superior Binational Forum	Jan. 26-27	All Day	Ashland Area, TBD
Inventors & Entrepreneur's Club	Feb. 1 st	5:30 PM	Iron River Community Center
Sustainable Forestry Conference	Feb. 27th	All Day	Keshena WI
Staying Competitive in Today's Markets (Wood Products)	Feb. 28th	All Day	Oshkosh WI
Superior Days	Feb. 27-28 th	All Day	Madison WI
Fusion 2007 CEI-CIO Symposium	Feb. 27-28th	All Day	Fluno Center, Madison WI
Inventors & Entrepreneur's Club	Mar. 1 st	5:30 PM	Iron River Community Center
Renewable Energy Conference	Mar. 8 th & 9 th	All Day	Milwaukee
2007 Entrepreneur's Conference	June. 12-13**	All day	Milwaukee

** The 2007 Entrepreneur's Conference date was incorrectly listed in previous TGIFs. My apology for any inconvenience.

FOREST PRODUCTS

Back-to-back conferences are scheduled in East Central Wisconsin in February (see schedule above and click on link to reach PDF brochures). These conferences seem to be a logical follow-up to the **Making Wood Work** conference that BCEDC sponsored over three years ago at Telemark. **Frank Graves**, too often a lone voice on the BCEDC Board, has urged follow-up for the Making Wood Work conference; but, there has, regrettably, not been enough enthusiasm or resources to sponsor another conference. Even though these conferences are out of our region, and will require some travel, they promise information of value to development of new forest products in NW Wisconsin – and Minnesota!

It is interesting to see that **East Central (Wisconsin) Regional Planning Commission** has reached across the Wisconsin-Minnesota border to bring **Brian Brashaw** from the **Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI)** in Duluth (Hermantown) to talk about Lean Manufacturing. This is just another example of cross-border cooperation and certainly a good thing. Other examples include: **CEID Ltd** – encouraging Eco-Industrial Development – and the **GROW GRANT** obtained by NW CEP to encourage young people to think about staying in our area, rather than moving to Madison, Minneapolis or Milwaukee for jobs. **NRRI** is an amazingly under-recognized regional resource.

Scott Bowe, Assistant Professor in the Department of Forest Ecology and Management at UW-Madison is talking about “*Reacting and Adjusting to Global Impacts*” (Feb. 28th) and “*Value-Added Forest Industry*” (Feb. 27th). Both topics have enormous relevance for sustainable economic development in the Northland. Our forest resources represent renewable raw materials for value-added manufacturing and an energy-laden feedstock for production of electricity, process steam, and combustible hydrocarbons for transportation fuel.

NEW YORK IS NOT HERBSTER

Lamborghini, Massaratti, Rolls Royce. Interesting that I had little confidence to spell any of these, but my spell checker says only Masseratti is in error. I'll just leave it that way because I don't really care or need to know how to spell Maserati correctly.

That last sentence is toned down considerably from what was originally written shortly after listening to CNN blather about the Holiday bonuses being dished out at **Goldman Sachs**. It seems that car dealers and real estate agents in New York, London and Hong Kong are ecstatic over clients who tell them “I've worked hard all year and now I want to live well.”

How nice!

I paused to imagine the commissions for the car dealers and real estate agents but decided not to care about that either. I should have used the TV remote sooner.

A New York perspective on economic development is a very different world from NW Wisconsin. Just one of the smaller multi-million dollar Goldman bonuses would more than double, triple, quadruple the venture capital administered by **Northwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission** through its **Rural Enterprise Fund**.

Someone said that **Santa Claus** lives just North of Herbster. Ho! Ho! Ho! Santa's Elves are now mostly living in China. Oh! Oh! Oh!

How long does it take for a Lamborghini purchase in New York to trickle down to Herbster? Apparently the Goldman bankers have all of this, and a whole lot more, figured out nicely. Now I should be nice.

HAPPY HOLIDAY!

Take care and have a great long 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](#), Director

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

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

[IDEA Consortium LLC](#), Owner

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

The encircled fractal triangle represents an integrated cluster of seven ideas – economics, ecology, equity, ethics, education, experience and energy – that may be considered a core for sustainability studies. Bruce is available to present illustrated lectures and facilitate discussions about Sustainable Economic Development and the Sustainability Revolution.