

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.

Herbster, WI June 27th – Volume 4: Number 25 [Back Issues](#)

“Don’t fight forces, use them.”

-R. Buckminster Fuller-

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	July 3 rd	5:30 PM	Coffee Shop US 2 & 63
BCEDC Board Meeting	July 14 th	10:00 – Noon	Washburn Library
Science Symposium	July 17 – 18	All Day	UW - Stout
Lake Superior Day	July 20th	All Day	Everywhere! Especially in the Lake Superior Basin
WIN Technology Conference	August 7 th	8:00 am – 3:00 pm	WITC Ashland
Inventors & Entrepreneurs Club	August 7th	5:30 PM	Coffee Shop US 2 & 63
BCEDC Board Meeting	August 11 th	10:00 – Noon	Washburn Library
Lake Superior Binational Forum	Sept 5-6	All Day Fri. 8-12 Sat.	Houghton, MI
Bioneers Conference 2008	Oct. 17-19	All Day	San Rafael, California

Doubters

There are those who still doubt the reality of climate change and oil depletion. It is hard to get ones arms around the statistical evidence and even more difficult to take a discussion outside of the here and now. Cold days and cooler nights can easily mislead, change from year to year can mislead, floods like those currently occurring in the Mississippi basin can mislead, a couple of summers with diminished hurricanes can mislead. The hype surrounding a presentation as dramatic as those delivered by **Al Gore** will leave some unpersuaded because the obvious partisan edge of his practiced and polished slide show. We have a naturally easy tendency to attend to the dramatic. Following a ten, one hundred or five hundred year trend is much more difficult.

For slightly over 150 years, human society has moved from an economy fundamentally powered by wood and muscle to an economy over 90% powered by fossil fuel; first coal and since 1930 by oil. The increased concentration in atmospheric carbon dioxide, the most remarked upon greenhouse gas, shows a persuasive parallel with the dramatic increases in our love of the automobile and the convenience and speed of airline travel.

In just the past week Bayfield County has witnessed two powerful and relevant presentations. Journalist **Richard Heinberg**, a fellow of the Post Carbon Institute, and Limnologist **John Magnuson** persuasively, firmly and with carefully measured passion laid out the case for peak oil and climate change respectively. Magnuson spoke last Friday at the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference at Telemark in Cable. Heinberg was the keynote speaker Wednesday evening at the 12th Annual Pie and Politics event at Big Top Chautauqua in Washburn. Pie and Politics is sponsored by the Alliance for Sustainability.

Heinberg emphasized that predictions about reserves are flawed by an inability to anticipate increases in consumption. A recent flurry of confident (curiously and conspicuously coordinated) assertions about the quantity of off-shore oil reserves are hard to support. He pointed out that the USA is not going to “run out” of coal or oil but we will reach a point where the cost of extraction will exceed the value as an energy source. Economic impacts will be harder and harder to ignore.

Magnuson, retired UW Professor, reduced the arguments for climate change from highly abstract statistics to a clearly presented series of graphs that depicted change in ice cover on Lake Mendota in Madison. Records go back to the 1800s and in both detail and trend lines, the evidence for earlier ice-out and later ice cover was hard to ignore. Ice on Lake Mendota has changed by thirty days over about 100 years. Especially for lake lovers, the ecological impacts will be harder and harder to ignore.

Our ignorance of potential changes will not lead us to bliss. Nothing less than national security is at stake.

Jay Moynihan UW Extension Professor from Shawano County, sent along a very [sobering paper](#) by Dr. **John T Ackerman**: *Avoiding the Perfect Storm, Climate Change, National Security, and the Quadrennial Defense Review*. The perfect storm, Ackerman depicts, would occur if traditional disasters like floods, heat waves and droughts are suddenly linked temporally and spatially with irregular, catastrophic and disruptive events. Such a perfect storm, he warns, could overwhelm ability to respond and generating chaotic social, ecological and economic consequences. Employed as a professor in the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Base, Ackerman writes “*While the QDR rightly seeks to identify capabilities required to defeat terrorism, another more potent threat to national security is emerging. The challenge to national security created by global climate change is based on threats, vulnerabilities, and risks across the spectrum of strategic, operational, and even tactical challenges identified within the QDR.*”

That preparations for climate change are addressed by the US Military probably means that those who doubt should begin to question their basis for doubting.

LIGHTER SIDE:

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

Remembering the lighter side of George Carlin

If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done?

What was the best thing before sliced bread?

One nice thing about egotists; they don't talk about other people.

Is there another word for synonym?

Isn't it a bit unnerving that doctors call what they do “practice?”

Where are we going? And what's with this hand basket?

I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, “Where's the self-help section?” She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.

Does the Little Mermaid wear an algebra?

If you ate pasta and antipasta, would you still be hungry?

How is it possible to have a civil war?

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

[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.