

THE CENTRAL ARKANSAS



CHEMIST

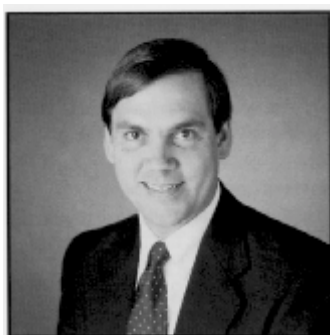
The Newsletter of the Central Arkansas Local Section of the American Chemical Society

February, 2002

The 2002 program starts off with an ACS tour speaker, Dr. David F. Wiemer.

“A Search for Natural Insecticides”

The leafcutter ants (Hymenoptera, Formicidae, Attini) are classed as agricultural pests throughout the tropical Americas, both because of the massive amount of leaf material that they harvest and their special fondness for agriculturally important plants. Colonies whose foraging is restricted to areas of native forest encounter a great variety of potential host plants, but, while the ants are considered polyphagous, they are quite specific in their preferences for some plant species and dislike of others. We have been investigating avoided plants for the presence of natural chemical defenses against this insect. From the leaves of unpalatable plants, we have isolated a number of compounds that function as ant repellents. Representative structures will be presented to illustrate modern techniques for determining the structures of natural products (e.g. 2-D NMR and chemical synthesis). Some speculation on the basis of this ant-repellent activity also will be offered. Application of the strategies developed from studies with leafcutter ants to investigation of other types of insect-plant interactions may be presented as well.



General Meeting

Friday, February 8

Lyon College
Lyon Building, Nucor Auditorium

5:30 p.m. Dinner with Speaker
The Lockhouse, Batesville, AR

7:00 p.m. Program
David F. Wiemer
“A Search for Natural Insecticides”

*To obtain driving directions, visit
membership.acs.org/c/centralarkansas
or call 870-698-4315*

Speaker's Biographical Sketch

David F. Wiemer received a B.S. degree in chemistry from Marquette University in 1972, before moving to the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana to pursue graduate study in organic chemistry. He received the Ph.D. in 1976 for work in synthetic organic chemistry under the direction of Nelson J. Leonard, and then continued his career with postdoctoral study at Cornell University under the direction of Jerrold Meinwald. He joined the faculty in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Iowa in 1978, and now holds the rank of professor. His honors include a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellowship, a fellowship from the Alfred P. Sloan

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Foundation, a University of Iowa Faculty Scholar Award, and a University of Iowa Collegiate Teaching Award. Dr. Wiemer is interested in the isolation, characterization, and synthesis of biologically active natural products and the field of chemical ecology. His research projects include studies of the chemical basis of host-plant resistance to defoliation by leafcutter ants and of natural insecticides and anti-fungal agents in general. He also is involved in the chemical synthesis of various terpenoids with anti-viral, anti-leukemic, and anti-proliferative properties and in the development of new methodology for organic synthesis based on organophosphorus chemistry.

Election Results

Officers for 2002

Chair: Jeffery Moran
501-614-2834
jmoran@cteh.com

Chair-Elect: Cindy Moran
501-227-5747
cindy.moran@ascl.state.ar.us

Secretary: Derek McDowell
870-698-4315
dmcdowell@lyon.edu

Treasurer: Marian Douglas
501-569-8826
msdouglas@ualr.edu

Councilor: Ed Wilson
501-279-4513
wilson@harding.edu

Alternate Councilor: Marty Perry
870-245-5217
perrym@obu.edu

Looking Ahead

Although some of the details for the 2002 program are still being finalized, mark your calendars for these upcoming meetings and events:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| March | TBA |
| April 16 | Central Arkansas Local Section Awards Banquet, UALR |
| Sept. 17 | “I Love a Chemystery,”
Thomas H. Crawford
(University of Louisville) |
| Oct. 28 | “Boron: It’s Not Just for
Rocket Fuels Anymore,”
Thomas A. Holme (University
of Wisconsin – Milwaukee) |
| November | TBA |

Watch for details about these and other events in the *Chemist*, on the website, and via email.

National News

The Women Chemist Committee celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2002. “Diversity in the 21st Century—Advancing Women in Science” is the theme of the WCC Diamond Jubilee planned for the 2002 ACS national and regional meetings in honor of the committee’s 75th anniversary.

The 2001 edition of the ACS *Directory of Graduate Research (DGR)* has just been released. If you would like more information on how to order a copy, call the ACS Office of Society Services at 800-227-5558. Also available is ***DGRweb***, an easy-to-use, searchable database that contains all the information found in the *DGR*. For more information, visit the ***DGRweb*** homepage at <http://pubs.acs.org/dgrweb>.

Connections

Curious about the non-technical skills that many employers increasingly are asking for in today's chemical workplace? Need some tips about writing a curriculum vitae? You can download new publications on each of these subjects as well as gain access to an entire library of career-development publications and other resources at ACS' Department of Career Services website, www.chemistry.org/careers.

Interested in sizing up an employment situation you may be considering? While at the above website, you may wish to use the Salary Comparator, which allows members to evaluate their salaries with other members in their employment situation. This new tool also allows members to examine any employment situation within the scope of the ACS surveys, including new graduates' starting salaries. The comparator is available only to ACS members. For further information, email careers@acs.org or call 800-227-5558.

Local Section News

Be advised that National Chemistry Week 2002 will be celebrated during the week of October 20-26, rather than the traditional first week of November. This year's theme is "Chemistry Keeps Us Clean." This is well into the future, but is mentioned here in order to announce changes that have been made in how the section intends to fund NCW activities sponsored by the Student Affiliates of ACS chapters within the section. Complete details are to come, but be advised that requests for financial assistance for NCW 2002 activities should come in the form of an informal proposal that is due on May 15, 2002. The new guidelines also state that SAACS chapters receiving funding must submit a follow-up report to explain how the funds were used. The follow-up report will be due on December 15, 2002. Again, all interested parties should watch for more details to come.

The section would like to send a great big THANK YOU to **Jerry Manion**, who recently stepped down from his Secretary duties, after...well, after so many years that we have lost count! We greatly appreciate his leadership and contributions to the section in the past and sincerely thank him for his admirable volunteer efforts.

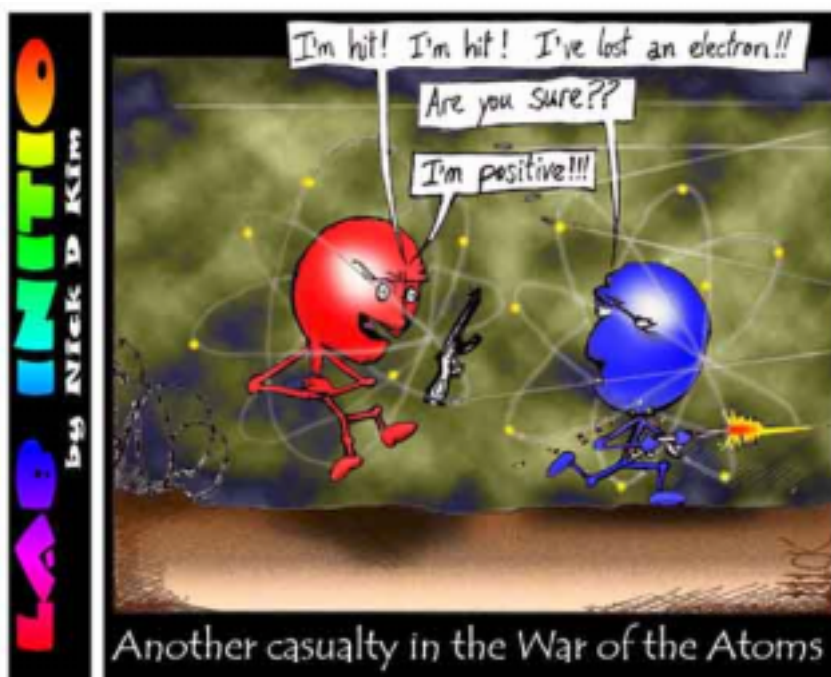
Ever at a loss as to what's going on in the section? Simply visit the section's website:

<http://membership.acs.org/c/centralarkansas>

You'll find the section's meeting schedule, announcements, and information about services provided by the section, along with other useful links.

Perspective

As we begin the new year, the Section can look back to the progress made last year and forward to new challenges in the coming year as we continue to strive to grow and improve the benefits that come with our involvement in our local section. We should all praise **Jeff Moran** for his vision and efforts in 2001 to lead the section to better serve its membership. Most will recall his program's theme that focused on career opportunities for the many undergraduates in our section. In order to continue these efforts, we need to identify what area of our membership needs to be at the center of the 2003 programming. Current Chair-Elect, **Cindy Moran**, will be attending an ACS Leadership Conference in February, where she will have the opportunity to select a theme as she organizes the 2003 program. What do you think would be an appropriate theme? Where should the focus be? Women chemists? Senior chemists? Or should we push the focus away from ourselves and toward public outreach and improving chemistry's image in our communities? If you have any ideas, or would like to get involved, please contact Cindy at 501-227-5747 or cindy.moran@ascl.state.ar.us.



The *Central Arkansas Chemist* is published as needed by the Central Arkansas Local Section of the American Chemical Society. Section Chair, Jeffrey Moran, Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health, 501-614-2834, jmoran@cteh.com; Chair-Elect, Cindy Moran, Arkansas State Crime Lab, 501-227-5747, cindy.moran@ascl.state.ar.us. Address all correspondence to the Section Secretary, Derek McDowell, Lyon College, 870-698-4315, dmcowell@lyon.edu. Newsletter contributions should be sent directly to the Section Secretary in electronic form. The Central Arkansas Local Section Web site is <http://membership.acs.org/c/centralarkansas>

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