



September 2007
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Central Texas ACS

Newsletter of the Central Texas Section of the American Chemical Society

Tuesday, September 4, 6:30 – 9:00 pm:

Herbal Products: They're Natural but Are They Safe?

Dr. David Wiemer

Department of Chemistry
University of Iowa

North by Northwest Restaurant and Brewery
10010 Capital of Texas Highway

Social "hour" from 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm. Dinner 7:00 - 8:00 pm, Talk 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Dinner \$15 - Students \$10

RSVP by August 31 at (512) 653-6311

Or email chair@centraltexasacs.org

Biographical Sketch:

David F. Wiemer received a B.S. in chemistry from Marquette University in 1972 and a Ph.D. in 1976 at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana 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.

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.

Abstract

Herbal products have become big business in the United States. Infomercials, radio and television commercials, and print ads trumpet the benefits of natural remedies for various illnesses or as aids for weight loss or in programs to stop smoking. These products are commonly described as 'all-natural' and draw on the common belief that if something is natural it must be safe. But does this belief have any scientific basis?

Native peoples often have used plants to treat disease or illness, and both traditional remedies and other plants have given rise to many of the drugs used in Western medicine. However, many natural materials are highly toxic and some natural products are useful precisely because they are highly toxic. In this presentation, examples of both the beneficial and harmful compounds found in nature will be presented, along with a description of the strategies that are used to isolate biologically active compounds from natural sources.

Central Texas ACS: September 2007 Chair's Page

Letter from the Chair

Hi Everybody!

Hopefully everyone has had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. I recently returned from vacation in France and Italy, and discovered there's no place like home! Now that summer is over and fall is here, so is another season of Central Texas ACS activities.

There are three meetings that are sure to grab your attention planned for this fall. We start off September with a discussion on the utility and questionable safety aspects of herbal health products with guest speaker Dr. David Wiemer. This meeting will be held in the spacious outdoor patio at North by Northwest. In October Dr. Wade will educate us on how forensic chemistry is used to pinpoint sources of gasoline contamination. During the week of October 22nd we will celebrate National Chemistry Week. We have a children's event scheduled for Wednesday October 25th, and a poster contest for grades K-12. Please see our website for more information about National Chemistry Week events and poster contest. If you would like to volunteer for the event please contact our NCW coordinator Betsy McGrew. Her contact information is on the back page of this newsletter. The last meeting of the fall will take place on November 15th. Dr. Stephen Hursting will talk about obesity and how it has been linked to cancer. I have not yet selected a meeting venue, but I thought a greasy burger place might be appropriate☺ Check your next newsletter and email for updates.

Not yet attended a meeting in 2007? Make this one your first and not the last. I look forward to seeing you all September 4th.



Sincerely,
Jackie Padilla

Dear ACS Southwest Region Member:

In early November, the South Plains Local Section will host the 2007 Regional Meeting of the ACS in Lubbock, TX. ACS regional meetings offer attractive opportunities for both experienced professional chemists and students alike, and I would ask that you all consider attending the SWRM this year. Much information regarding symposia, accepted speakers, special events, etc. may be found at the 2007 SWRM WEBSITE,

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/chemistry/SWRM07/>

There are still slots available for oral and poster presentations in the general sessions and 16 special symposia; the deadline for abstract submission is September 1. Researchers are strongly encouraged to bring their group members, and graduate and undergraduate students are especially invited to present work. Note that by design, advance registration (web site only) and hotel costs are particularly inexpensive this year.

Educator's Day will take place on Sunday, Nov. 4, and programming is planned for K-12 educators. Several special university-level educational events are also scheduled, sponsored in part by the four major textbook publishers, each of whom will also staff a hospitality suite. These include a free luncheon on Monday, Nov. 5. On Tuesday, Nov. 6, students will benefit from various ACS Chemjobs Career Center Workshops.

Special events include a Sunday Night Mixer and Buffet, a Winery Tour and Tasting event on Monday, Nov. 5 featuring award-winning Lubbock wines, and the Women Chemists's Luncheon on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

I hope to see many of you in Lubbock in the fall, and I thank you in advance for attending what promises to be a terrific meeting.

Bill Poirier
2007 Chair, ACS South Plains Local Section

Recently joined ACS? Members who joined in 2007 are eligible for one free local section meeting dinner. See website for details.

Central Texas ACS: September 2007

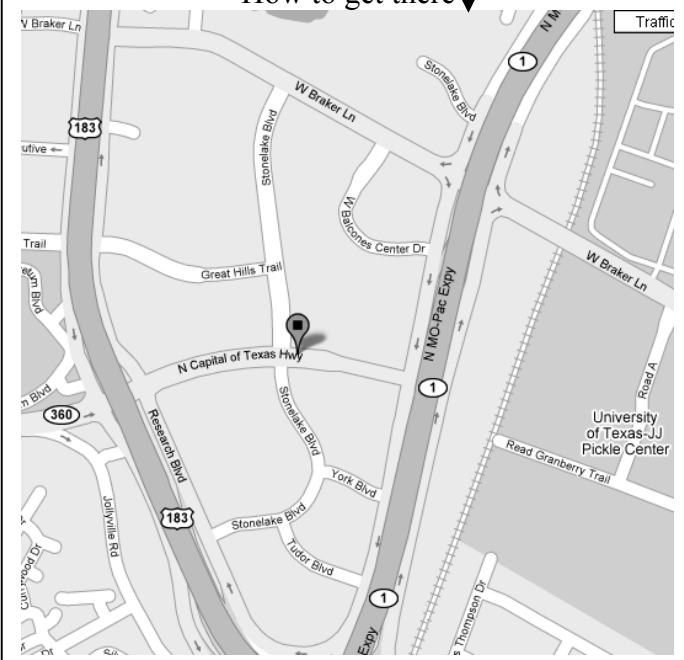
Calendar of Events

Tuesday, September 4

Speaker: Dr. David Wiemer
 “Herbal Products: they’re natural, but are they safe?”

North by Northwest Restaurant and Brewery
 10010 Capital of Texas Highway
 Austin TX
 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

How to get there ↓



Monday, October 8

Speaker: Dr. Michael J. Wade
 “Forensic Geochemistry of Subsurface Gasoline Contamination—whose gasoline is it and when was it released?”

Texas Land & Cattle Restaurant
 I-35 & Highway 290
 Austin TX
 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Wednesday Evening, October 24

National Chemistry Week
 Austin Children’s Museum,
 201 Colorado Street, Austin.

Thursday, November 15

Speaker: Dr. Stephen D. Hursting
 “Obesity and How It Relates to the Progression of Cancer”

Time and location to be announced

Chemistry Olympiad 2007

The Central Texas Section has participated in Chemistry Olympiad for 20 consecutive years! This year, five schools asked to participate in the local section phase by requesting 185 copies of the Local Section exam. Four of the schools were able to administer the exam in time for the selection of participants. This included the participation of 150 students. Six of these students were selected from three schools to compete on the National level exam and two of these students, one from Cedar Park HS and one from Westlake HS, performed with Honors.

On the National level exam a total of 916 students participated, answering questions in both multiple choice and short essay form and participating in a two-part laboratory practical. The US chemistry team won four medals at the 39th International Chemistry Olympiad competition in Moscow, Russia. The medalists are:

Brian Lee - Silver (NJ LS)
 Justin Koh - Silver (Southern California LS)
 Kenneth Brewer - Silver (Central Utah LS)
 Sofia Izmailov - Bronze (Trenton LS)

Central Texas ACS: September 2007

2007 Executive Committee: Officers and Program Directors

Keep your contact information current to receive the latest emails from your local section!

Chair	Jackie Padilla	URS	chair@	centraltexasacs.org	219-6569
Chair-Elect	Betsy McGrew	Stratagene	chairelect@		321-3321
Past-Chair	Kenneth Pavlat	Applied Analytical	pastchair@		339-1462
Secretary			secretary@		
Treasurer	Dr. Stan Hajost	Applied Analytical	treasurer@		339-1462
Councilor 1	Dr. Barry Streusand	Applied Analytical	councilor1@		339-1462
Councilor 2	Prof. Jim Boggs	University of Texas	councilor2@		466-9145
Alt. Councilor 1	Dr. Linette Watkins	Texas State University	altcouncilor1@		245-3125
Alt. Councilor 2	Dr. Denny Wagoner	AnalySys Inc.	altcouncilor2@		385-5886
National Chemistry Week	Betsy McGrew	Stratagene	NCW@		321-3321
Public Relations Chair	Jackie Padilla	URS	media@		219-6569
Women in Chemistry	Larisa Watson	University of Texas	wic@		471-7680
Awards Chair	Dr. Stanley Cavitt	Texaco Chemical (ret)	awards@		345-0407
Membership Chair	Dr. Linette Watkins	Texas State University	membership@		245-3125
Nominations Chair	Dr. Diane Kneeland	University of Texas	nominations@		232-0680
Chemistry Olympiad	Dr. Neal Grice	Dept State Health Services	chemolympiads@		926-7844
Girl Scout Program	Betsy McGrew	Stratagene	girlscouts@		321-3321
Boy Scout Program	Dr. Barry Streusand	Applied Analytical	boyscouts@		339-1462
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