



## Green Mountain Section of the American Chemical Society

e-mail: [GreenMntACS@yahoo.com](mailto:GreenMntACS@yahoo.com)

Green Mountain Section website:  
<http://membership.acs.org/g/greenmt>

### Officers 2006

Chair..... Fiona Case  
Chair-Elect..... open  
Secretary..... Michele Johnson  
Treasurer..... Beth Medeiros  
Councilor..... Willem Leenstra  
Alternate Councilor..... Martin Case

### Committee Chairs

Awards..... Michele Johnson  
PR/Web Master..... Fiona Case  
Education..... Timothy Deschaines  
NCW Coordinator... Larry Marzec-  
..... Gerrior  
Newsletter Editor... Willem Leenstra

### Upcoming Events

**June 15, 2006** – Publishing  
Chemistry, speaker is Allison  
Doerr, Assistant Editor at Nature  
Methods

**July 28 (tentative), 2006** – Green  
Mountain Local Section First  
Annual Golf Outing, location TBA

**August, 2006** – Tour of the Snow  
Farm Winery, South Hero (joint  
activity with the Northern NY Local  
Section)



ACS website: [www.Chemistry.org](http://www.Chemistry.org)

# GMLS June Meeting

## “Publishing Chemistry”



**Date:** Thursday, June 15, 2006  
**Time:** Talk at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner

**Speaker:** Allison Doerr, Assistant Editor  
Nature Methods

Dr. Doerr will tell us about the world of scientific publishing and share her experiences as Assistant Editor of Nature Methods. Allison began conducting research in chemistry as an undergraduate at Vassar College, where she studied polymer synthesis and characterization. She recently obtained her Ph.D. in Chemistry from Princeton University working in George McLendon's laboratory with Martin Case (now a member of the Chemistry Faculty at UVM). There, she studied *de novo* protein receptor design and investigated protein-ligand interactions using NMR spectroscopy. Allison joined Nature Methods as an editorial intern in February 2005.

**Title:** “Publishing Chemistry”

**Location:** McCardell Bicentennial Hall  
Room 220  
Middlebury College

For directions to the talk's venue use the Middlebury College link: [www.middlebury.edu](http://www.middlebury.edu). At their homepage, click on “Campus Map” at the lower bar, followed by selecting McCardell Hall in the Building Index in the upper right of the campus map screen.

**Dinner:** Tully and Marie's  
Bakery Lane, Middlebury

If you wish to join us for dinner after the talk, please RSVP Fiona Case at 879-3684, or via e-mail to [greenmntacs@yahoo.com](mailto:greenmntacs@yahoo.com) by **Tuesday, June 13**. For directions, please see [www.tullyandmaries.com](http://www.tullyandmaries.com).

## Last Month's Talk on "Chemistry and Politics" presented by Chris Allen



The charming 19<sup>th</sup>-century Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier was the site of Professor Chris Allen's talk on the political issues that surround the promotion of chemistry. In his presentation "Talking to Politicians about Science at the National and State Levels", Chris traced his entry into this area to his leadership role with the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). In this congressionally mandated program, federal granting agencies set aside funds to be awarded to the 20+ states that traditionally have been underfunded. The recipient peer-reviewed programs are targeted as the bases that stimulate their ascent in the research, educational, or technology development arenas.

Chris reviewed some of the key core issues surrounding communication with elected representatives: never "lecturing" to legislators, highlighting mostly issues that are of interest to their individual political agendas, keeping in continual touch with them - not just when more money is needed, and staying out of partisan politics. It was noted that two-thirds of Vermont's delegation to Congress will turn over, necessitating lobbyists to adjust to new agendas, as well as scaling down expectations that comes with the loss of seniority.

All throughout, Chris sprinkled the talk with anecdotes collected over the span of a long and productive career in teaching, research and service. Good food and conversation at NECI's Bar & Grill capped an enjoyable evening dedicated to a new topic in our local section's speaker series themes.

## Be a Voice for Chemistry

Following up on our successful May meeting on chemistry and politics, the ACS Green Mountain Local Section is hoping to establish a Local Section Government Affairs Committee (GAC). GACs are being set up in ACS local sections around the country and are designed to coordinate ongoing local scientific advice and technical expertise to federal or state officials.

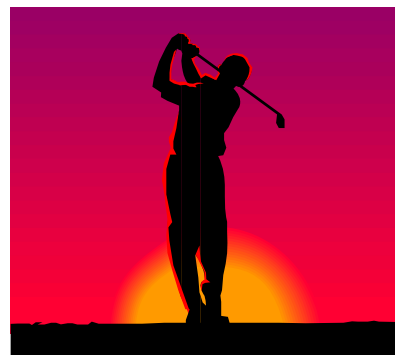
GACs inform their local section members about important policy decisions, and enhance member professional development and civic involvement. Many people argue that laws associated with innovation and technology are weak on scientific fundamentals. This is understandable given that very few elected officials (or their staff) have scientific backgrounds, and too few scientists and engineers have made a significant effort to share scientific knowledge to them. However, elected officials respond to their constituents more than anyone else, so ACS members can clearly make a difference if they are willing to provide technical information to their elected officials. Brad Smith (whom we met at the May meeting), and his OLGA group at the ACS headquarters in Washington would provide lots of support for our GAC. If you are interested in more information, or in becoming a member of our GAC, please contact Fiona ([greenmntacs@yahoo.com](mailto:greenmntacs@yahoo.com)). The person selected as committee chair (2-year commitment) will be invited to a training session and Capitol Hill visits in Washington the 3rd week of November.

## Next Month's Golf Outing

We are going to try another new activity this year: a get-together on the golf course. Tentatively, we are looking at Friday afternoon, July 28. Of the local clubs, the Williston Country Club (Williston), Rocky Ridge (St. George), and Cedar Knoll (Hinesburg) all can accommodate reservations for a number of foursomes, on Friday afternoons. Almost all golf courses have evening leagues on Thursdays and Fridays.

Are you potentially interested? It would be good to get a rough idea how many people would be interested in joining us for, say, a 2 p.m. start time. This could then be followed by exchanging horror stories over dinner.

Please send an e-mail by July 7, indicating your level of interest as definite/maybe and a course preference if any, to: [willem.leenstra@uvm.edu](mailto:willem.leenstra@uvm.edu).



## Happy Birthday FDA!

June 30 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1906 Food and Drug Act and the birth of the Food and Drug Administration. The act came into being as a backlash against unfettered capitalism at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. “Federal interference in commerce was a hateful notion in Washington at that time; intrusion upon business was not to be countenanced”, explains Philip J. Hilts in his recent book. “The business leaders were not called robber barons for nothing; the era has been described as the most shameless in American history”, he adds. Decaying fruits, vegetables and meat were made to appear palatable with dyes and preservatives, including formaldehyde, borax and benzoic acid. Flour was bulked up with chalk, and sugar with ground-up insects. Mothers who gave their infants widely advertised “soothing syrups” were unwittingly administering high doses of opium, morphine, cocaine or acetanilide.

Harvey W. Wiley had been the Indiana State Chemist and a Professor of Chemistry at Purdue University before coming to Washington DC in 1883 to become Chief Chemist of the Department of Agriculture. He has been called the “crusading chemist” – it was his efforts, along with those of newly formed women’s groups and the American Medical Association that persuaded President Roosevelt to sign the new law. The history of the FDA, and of the regulation of food, drug, cosmetics and medical devices over the next century makes an interesting story. There is heroism, greed, politics, and inspiring acts of chemistry. And the challenges today are no less than they were in the past. You can read all about it in:

- “Protecting America’s Health: The FDA, Business, and One Hundred Years of Regulation” Philip J. Hilts, UNC Press, 2004.
- “Inside the FDA: The Business and Politics Behind the Drugs We Take and the Food We Eat” Fran Hawthorne, Wiley, 2005
- “The Great American Fraud”, the classic article by Samuel Hopkins Adams published in Collier’s Weekly, October 7, 1905 (available on-line in various locations)
- The FDA web-site: <http://www.fda.gov>
- The Center for science in the public interest: <http://www.cspinet.org/>



&

