



Green Mountain Local Section of the American Chemical Society

e-mail: 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

September 10-14, 2006 – ACS
National Meeting in San Francisco

October 5-7, 2006 – NERM 2006
in Binghamton, NY. See article
inside for further information.

October 22-28 – National
Chemistry Week with its theme of
“Your Home – It’s All Built on
Chemistry”



ACS website: www.Chemistry.org

GMLS September Meeting

“Turning Wood into Plastics”



Speaker: John Meister, Director
Forest Products Research Center
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Title: Sources for Chemicals in the 21st
Century. The Preparation of Polymers
and Plastics from Forest Products

John Meister, is a research scientist and Director of the Forest Products Research Center, an environmental center in Albuquerque, New Mexico that is supported by private donations and foundation research grants. The Center, under his guidance, is developing environmentally compatible, sustainable technologies for the use of our forests. The research lab where these technologies are developed is located within Sandia National Laboratories. Dr. Meister will describe new methods to make chemicals and plastics from wood and show samples of new products being made from wood. This talk will be a guide to the future of chemistry as we leave the Age of Petroleum and enter the Age of Biomass.

When: Wednesday, September 6, 2006
Lecture at 7:30 p.m.
Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Lecture: Cabot Annex 85
Norwich University
Northfield, Vermont

Dinner: J. Morgan’s Steak House
100 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont

Please RSVP to greenmntacs@yahoo.com By September 5 if you would like to join us for dinner. For directions to the lecture and the dinner venues, please go to our website:
<http://membership.acs.org/g/greenmt/#next>

Last Month's Wine Tasting Outing at the Snow Farm Winery and Vineyards



On August 15th the ACS Green Mountain and Northern New York Local Sections held a joint event: a vineyard tour, wine tasting, and buffet dinner at the Snow Farm Vineyard on South Hero. It was a beautiful evening and we were delighted that several New York local section members made the trip, including three from Potsdam (from Clarkson and SUNY Potsdam Universities).

Owning a vineyard is a romantic dream for many people, but the reality appears to be quite hard work! Picking the grapes by hand leads to a better quality product – but it takes two people around 8 hours to pick just one row. Fortunately Snow Farm has developed a useful link with several universities in upstate New York. The Snow Farm vintners provide lectures on the art and business of wine making – and in return the students assist with the harvest (apparently a very enjoyable activity, if only done occasionally!).

Another challenging task is the removal of tartrate crystals from the inside of the wine vats. Currently this is achieved by hand using copper tipped ice scrapers, a job that involves squeezing through a remarkably small access hole at the bottom of the vat, and working in very cramped conditions. Several Green Mountain Local Section members took this as a challenge – surely the combined chemical knowledge at the meeting could come up with a better approach? Filling the vats with hot water and allowing the crystals to dissolve was considered – but would probably take too long (and the water temperature would need to be maintained in some way). Scott Gordon from Green Technologies LLC suggested some engineering solutions involving hot water spraying based on his experience cleaning tanks for biodiesel production. Other members pointed out that the tartrate crystals might have commercial value if removed carefully. If anyone can come up with a

creative solution to the problem please let us know, and we will pass it on to the folks at Snow Farm.

This event was a great success and we will certainly plan other joint activities in the future, culminating in the ACS Northeast Regional Meeting in 2008 which will be held here in Burlington, but will involve all the local sections in our region.



NERM 2006 -- October 5-7, Binghamton, NY “Emerging Technologies and the Chemical Sciences”

Join your colleagues for a unique regional meeting that brings together the American Chemical Society with the Materials Research Society, the Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science, the IIEC CPMT Society and many other organizations to create an exciting program highlighting emerging technologies and the chemical sciences. This meeting will be an ideal forum to showcase the high concentration of academic and industrial research in upstate New York and New England. Technical sessions will run from 8:30 a.m. on Thursday morning until noon on Saturday. The technical sessions, poster sessions and exhibitors will be featured prominently at the Binghamton Regency and the Holiday Inn Arena.

Along with traditional chemistry sessions and an undergraduate poster session, additional symposia will cover topics such as: Organic and Flexible Electronics, Sensors and Small Scale Systems, Lithography, Atmospheric and Aquatic Chemistry, Nanostructured Materials, and Electronics Packaging.

Go to www.nerm2006.org for more information.



Join Us at the San Francisco National Meeting

As was reported here last month, we have been nominated as a finalist for a ChemLuminary Award in one of the National Chemistry Week categories, that of Best New Contest, a puzzle in which readers were asked to come up with a creative passage consisting entirely of letters that represent elements in the Periodic Table. Over 80 entries were received.

With hopes high, we will attend the 8th Annual ChemLuminary Award celebration on Tuesday evening, September 12, 2006, during the ACS Fall Meeting in San Francisco. If you will be in San Francisco at that time, put this event on your calendar. Admission is free, and dancing will cap the evening.



National Chemistry Week

October 22-28 will mark our annual celebration of chemistry outreach, National Chemistry Week. This year's theme is "Your Home – It's All Built on Chemistry".

Our Green Mountain Local Section has already planned several hands-on chemistry events at malls in Burlington and Rutland. Anyone interested in participating should contact Fiona Case (for Burlington) or Beth Medeiros (for Rutland); either can be reached at our section's email address: greenmntacs@yahoo.com

