



February 2011
Vol. 96, Issue 1

Central Texas ACS

Established 1917

Newsletter of the Central Texas Section of the American Chemical Society
www.CentralTexasACS.org

Central Texas ACS Meeting
Tuesday, February 22nd
Social Hour Begins at 6:30 pm, Dinner begins at 7:00 pm

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

David Wiemer
University of Iowa

**Texas Land and Cattle Co.
5510 S. I.H. 35 # C
Austin, TX 78745**

(NW corner at southbound I-35 and Stassney, in front of Fiest Food Mart)

Dinner is \$10 for members/adults, \$5 for students
Volunteer Appreciation Meeting: Free for 2010 Volunteers!
RSVP to Ben Martin by Feb. 21 by email at bmartin@txstate.edu
or call (512) 245-6077

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.

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Letter from the Chair

Dear members,

It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to serve as our section's chair in 2011. Under the excellent leadership of Dr. J.D. Lewis in 2010 we enjoyed fascinating after-dinner presentations, and with the help of outstanding volunteers and organizers we hosted our best outreach events to date.

This is a very exciting year for the Central Texas ACS section. In addition to our upcoming schedule of meetings and activities, our section is honored to host the 2011 Southwest Regional ACS meeting in Austin this fall. This is a massive undertaking that will draw chemists from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana. You will certainly hear much more about this event as it approaches.

We have three meetings planned for this spring: In February, Dr. David Wiemer will be speaking about medicinal uses of natural compounds; in March Dr. Don Olson will be presenting some of his work which links the physical sciences with historical records of major events; at our annual awards banquet in April Dr. Mary Virginia Orna will be presenting examples of the use of analytical chemical techniques to resolve mysteries from the past. We will also be hosting our "Chemists Celebrate Earth Day" event in April in Zilker Park. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings and events, and I invite and encourage you all to be involved in this International Year of Chemistry!

Best Regards,
Ben Martin

Save the Date!

February 22: First Meeting of the Year

March 22: Dinner Meeting in San Marcos

April 9: Earth Day Celebration

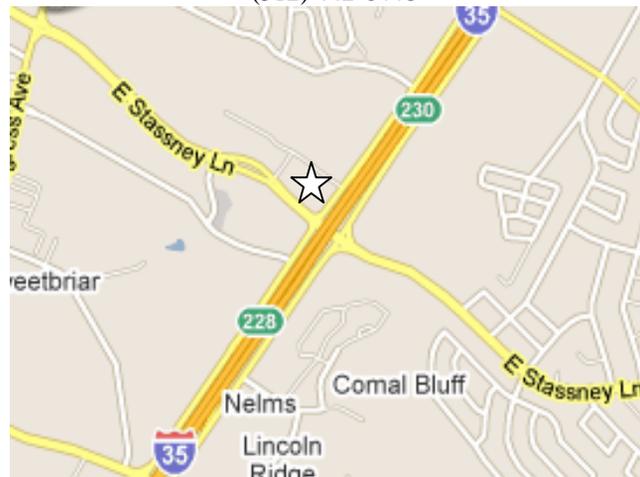
April 12: Annual Awards Banquet

Chemistry Olympiad:

257 local exams will be administered, with 8 schools participating: McNeil, Lago Vista, Westlake, Westwood, LASA Liberal Arts and Science Academy, Del Valle, Leander. The National exam will be administered to top 10 students on April 18 @ St. Edwards University.

Good luck Students!!!!

Texas Land and Cattle Co.
5510 S. I.H. 35 # C Austin, TX 78745
(512) 442-6448



Volunteer Opportunities

The Austin Energy Regional Science Fest (www.sciencefest.org) is a competition for middle and high school students from 23 school districts and 10 counties who are advancing from their local schools. They are looking for experts to evaluate the projects ranging from Animal Sciences, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Medicine & Health to Physics and Plant Sciences. About 7-10 projects are assigned to each group of judges (typically consisting of 3 people). After a group has interviewed their assigned students, group members discuss the merit of each project and jointly determine the ranking. It is a 2-4 hour commitment, depending on the amount of students in each category. **Judging for the Junior/Senior Division will take place on Thursday, Feb 24, 2011 at the Palmer Events Center;** Seniors will be judged from 9 am to about noon (check-in time for judges is at 8 am); Juniors from 1:30 p.m. to about 4:30 p.m. (check-in time for judges is at 12:30 p.m.)

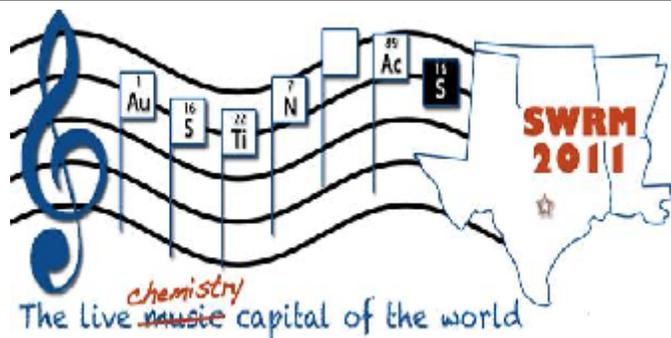
Anyone interested in judging should register at <http://www.sciencefest.org/volunteer/judgeRegistration.php>

Chemists celebrate Earth Day fast approaches. The Central Texas Section will hold our event at the Splash Exhibit in Zilker Park on April 9. The theme has lots of potential:

Energy - It's Everywhere

If you would like to help plan our best event ever, email Dodie Wells at dodiewells4@hotmail.com

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SWRM 2011: Energy in the International Year of Chemistry

Please mark your calendars for the 67th ACS Southwest Regional Meeting hosted by the Central Texas Section of the ACS. This will be held in Austin, Texas on November 9-12, 2011 at the Doubletree Hotel Austin, (6505 IH-35 North, Austin, Texas). We have an exceptionally strong program for this event including undergraduate and high school programming as well as employment and career based activities. For the current list of symposia and sponsorship opportunities please contact Dr. Richard Jones (rajones@mail.utexas.edu, 512-471-1706). We invite you to attend the presentations to hear about the latest cutting edge research or present a paper or poster describing your research. Conference registration and the call for papers will be available online May 16, 2011. For more information please visit www.SWRM2011.org

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL ACS MEETING (SWRM) IN AUSTIN, TEXAS – NOVEMBER 9 – 12, 2011

As we all know, financial support for these regional meetings is crucial to their success. Several of your local members have been working diligently on the program, venue, plenary session and speakers, *etc.*, including seeking funding from many sources. There are four levels of support possible as listed below, the names based on a music theme, hence the record names. If anyone is in a position to solicit a sponsorship from employers or special contacts in the area, please contact Patrick Cassidy (pcassidy@txstate.edu) before you contact them so that we do not have duplicate approaches to a potential donor. All assistance and suggestions are welcome to make this SWRM successful.

Silver Record: \$ 500- 999

Listing in Program and Website.
Acknowledgment at Poster Sessions.

Gold Record: \$ 1,000-2,499

Listing in Program and Website.
Acknowledgment at Poster Sessions.
Acknowledgment at Refreshment Break.

Platinum Record: \$ 2,500- 4,999

Listing in Program and Website.
Banner at Welcoming Reception.
Banner at Poster Sessions.
Acknowledgment at plenary session.

Double Platinum Record: \$5,000 +

Listing in Program and Website.
Banner at Welcoming Reception.
Banner at Poster Sessions.
Banner at Plenary Session.
Banner in Exhibit Hall
Acknowledgment at Awards banquet

Job Opportunity

Senior Project Manager for Systems and Materials Research Corporation (SMRC) located in Austin, TX. The hired individual will be a self-starter responsible for writing proposals, managing projects, and maintaining business relationships with clients. Office space will be maintained at SMRC's central-Austin office, with regular travel to laboratory space located in Austin and San Marcos, TX to oversee employee and project status. Periodic travel to conferences, tradeshow, and client facilities is expected. Basic Qualifications include MS degree in a Science or Engineering discipline required – PhD degree preferred, 5+ years experience in technical project management and product development, and US Citizen – Secret security clearance preferred. Additional Qualifications include background in materials science, chemistry, or other related field. Experience with aerospace fasteners, sealants, transparencies, or ballistic/blast-resistant materials. Familiarity with Manufacturing Technology (ManTech) and Materials and Processes (M&P) groups within aerospace primes. Track record in SBIR contract awards. Email a cover letter and resume to careers@systemsandmaterials.com.