



## Green Mountain Local Section of the American Chemical Society

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

### Officers 2007

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  
Gov't Affairs..... Sarah Locknar  
Newsletter Editor... Willem Leenstra

### Upcoming Events

**Saturday, October 18** – OMYA  
Open House in Proctor

**Tuesday, November 18** – Fiber  
spinning: presentation and plant  
tour of Monahan Filaments in  
Middlebury

**Wednesday, December 10** –  
Holiday Party at the Swift House  
Inn in Middlebury

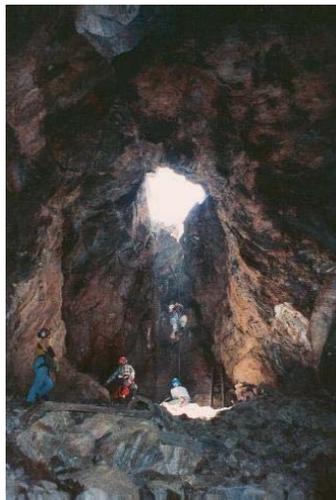


ACS website: [www.Chemistry.org](http://www.Chemistry.org)

# GMLS October Newsletter

## “Caves”

**Date:** Wednesday, October 15, 2008  
**Time:** Talk at 5:30 PM -- Dinner at 7:00 PM



**Speaker:** John R. Marquart  
Department of Chemistry  
Eastern Illinois University

[biography and abstract can be found on the next page]

**Title:** “Worlds within the World: An  
Introduction to the Chemistry, Geology,  
and Ecology of Caves”

**Location:** Rutland High School  
22 Stratton Road  
Rutland, Vermont

Directions to the Rutland High School venue: Follow Route 7 into the heart of Rutland, then take Route 4 East for 0.9 miles. Take a right onto Stratton Road. Once in the High School, the Lecture Hall is on your left just after entering at the main entrance.

**Dinner:** Table 24  
24 Wales Street  
Rutland, Vermont

Reservations are for 7:00 PM. If you wish to join us for dinner after the talk, please RSVP Michele Johnson by Tuesday, 10/14 at 802-770-7218, or via e-mail to [michele.johnson@omya.com](mailto:michele.johnson@omya.com).



**Dr. John R. Marquart** is a Professor of Chemistry at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois (1978 - present). His area of research involves applications of analytical and physical chemistry to environmental problems. He is active in a wide variety of field-based conservation and restoration projects involving subterranean environments (e.g., caves, mines, and water hydrology). His work on these projects is in collaboration with several state, federal, and private organizations.



**Abstract:** Cave science, or "speleology", offers a means of learning about the earth's geological history from the inside out. Caves are the exotic inner-worlds within our more familiar surface-world, hence the title "Caves -- Worlds within the World". Caves can be aesthetically beautiful, challenging, and sometimes fearsomely dangerous. They also constitute a valuable nonrenewable resource that should be appreciated for their beauty, and protected from damage. They have considerable impact upon our lives and the welfare of the earth's resources and ecology. Professor Marquart has been exploring and studying caves throughout the U.S. for almost five decades. It is estimated that at least a quarter of the United States can be considered karst (cave) area. He will take you on a slide-show tour of caves from across the country, with particular attention to the chemistry and geology that created them and their unique characteristics. This presentation is designed for an audience of varied interests and backgrounds, technical or non-technical. It is interdisciplinary in content, combining chemistry with geology, hydrology, and earth history to show how and where caves are formed, and why environmental concerns are particularly serious in karst regions. Professor Marquart will also talk about conservation, and discuss his work with endangered bats in our region.

### Report from our September Meeting

Steve Parkes, Brewmaster of Otter Creek Brewing, gave us a wonderful chemistry-focused tour of their facility, including a detailed discussion of the chemical, and biochemical, changes occurring at each step in the process, from kilning the malt to fermentation. Several members took the opportunity to purchase cases of the award winning Otter Creek Pale Ale. After an excellent dinner at the Swift House Inn, Professor Bob Bates, University of



Florida, provided an entertaining and informative talk covering the history of brewing. He also described some of the chemical processes. His discussion of brewing in primitive societies and also in modern highly automated mega breweries such as Anheuser Busch near Jacksonville, Florida, provided a fascinating contrast to Steve's discussion of Otter Creek's setup.

### Councilor's Report

Willem Leenstra attended the Council meeting at the Fall National Meeting, held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 17-21, 2008. Attendance was approximately 13,800. Totals in select categories are as follows: Regular attendees 8,200; Students 3,100; Guests 480; Exhibit Only 550; and Exhibitors 1,500.



What follows are the highlights and more interesting announcements from that meeting. If you would like a more complete report and/or a report of the proceedings of the Board of Directors, I would be happy to send it. Please contact me at: [willem.leenstra@uvm.edu](mailto:willem.leenstra@uvm.edu).

### Committee Review

As part of a regular review, the Council voted to continue the Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs, and the

Committee on Patents and Related Matters. The Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs is responsible for advice and recommendations for ACS action on public policy matters involving the chemical sciences and technologies. The Committee on Patents and Related Matters considers patents and other related items insofar as such consideration and possible action are appropriate under the Society's Charter.

#### **2009 National Meeting Registration Fee**

In keeping with the objective of the National Meeting Long Range Financial Plan, previously approved by the Board of Directors and Council, the Meetings and Expositions Committee voted to support an increase of \$10 for the 2009 national meetings advance registration fee.

#### **Professional Employment Guidelines**

The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs submitted its latest version of the Professional Employment Guidelines for consideration. These guidelines offer a broad spectrum of recommended practices in employment for professional scientists and their employers. The Council will vote on the Professional Employment Guidelines at the 2009 spring meeting in Salt Lake City.

#### **Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E)**

The responsibilities of M&E can be summarized succinctly as follows: We oversee the operations of the National Meetings, in particular with ensuring their financial and logistical success. During our two-day meeting many issues are discussed in the four areas (corresponding to our four subcommittees) of site logistics and site selection, the exposition, regional meetings, and technical programming logistics. A couple of items of interest concern future meetings, and presentation no-shows.

One of the principal recurring activities of M&E is to select sites for future ACS meetings. At the Fall National Meeting selections for 10 years hence are made. Accordingly, M&E announced that, in 2018, we will meet in New Orleans and in Boston.

As Chair of M&E, I have been pushing to combat the increase in poster (primarily) no-shows at the National Meetings. Thus, at the Philadelphia meeting, we announced that from here on in, Chemical Abstract Services will be directed to remove abstracts of presentations (oral or poster) that were not delivered. As a first step, M&E will be contacting Philadelphia no-shows to gauge the diversity of reasons given for their absence.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

### **Omya Open House**

As a part of national Earth Science Week activities, Omya will host an open house at its marble quarry in Middlebury, Vermont, on Saturday, October 18. Tours and family activities begin at 10:00 AM, and the last tours into the quarry will happen at 3:00 PM.



Activities include: exploring large trucks, loaders, and other equipment; learning about rocks and minerals; and adding your artwork to a 24-foot mural. For more information visit [Omya's website](#)

### **Monahan Filaments Tour and Talk**

A tour of the Monahan Filaments manufacturing facility will take place on Tuesday, November 18. Ray Mainer, Chemist at Monahan, will complement the tour by giving an overview talk of the production activities occurring at the plant, and how chemistry plays a part.



Synthetic fiber makers take advantage of the creativity of chemists. Of the 2 dozen or so commercially available polymers, most have been made into fibers, each with their own advantages and disadvantages. We look forward to hearing what Local Section member Ray Mainer has to say.