

ACS – Northeast Wisconsin Section

American Chemical Society

April 2011

Chemistry is a Great Word

There was a time, not too long ago, when ‘chemistry’ was a bad word. Companies clamored to remove the word from their name and advertisements. While there are still some folks out there that would prefer to ban chlorine to its own reclusive periodic table, most people now recognize the significance and benefit chemistry developments have provided to our society. Perhaps one day we’ll reflect whether a chemistry revival opened the doors to popular forensic TV programs or was it the other way around? Either way, people are embracing the fact that through chemical research and investigation, real problems can be solved. And that’s ‘neat’.

In April, we bring a little NCIS to Wisconsin. Robert Blackledge will provide an entertaining account of the effort to curb plant poaching, and the role chemistry plays in that effort. See below for details.

With great discoveries come important responsibilities. We must be safe in our research, and we must deliver safe solutions to the world. Our ‘On the Web’ section of this newsletter focuses on important chemical safety links.



Corey Cunningham - Chair

Finally, we will once again honor our local student achievements in chemistry with our May Honors Banquet. Mark your calendars for May 5th at UW-Fox Valley in Appleton. This is always a wonderful evening with a little food, a little discussion, and an introduction to the scientists of tomorrow.

Enjoy spring, when it arrives!

◆ April 2011 Section Meeting

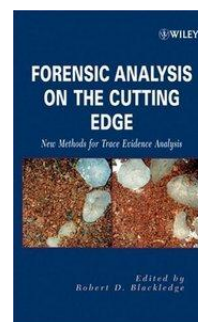
Robert Blackledge



**“Plant Poaching: Prevention,
Investigation and Prosecution”**

Monday, April 11th at 6:00 pm
Ripon College
Bear Auditorium, Farr Hall

[Map](#)



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Robert Blackledge – “Plant Poaching: Prevention / Investigation / Prosecution”

The theft and trade in endangered, exotic, and commercially valuable plants is a huge national and international problem. The international science community needs to become aware of this problem and to exert their expertise towards the prevention of plant poaching and to provide means of detection and identification of poached plants so that violators may be successfully prosecuted. The audience will be told of the scope of this problem, illustrated by a few specific cases. They will also be made aware of the applicable major international/national conventions and statutes, and the elements of the crime that must be proved if prosecution is to be successful. Specifically of interest to scientists, the talk will conclude with marking/detection/identification methods that have led to successful prosecutions, and offer hints of future approaches.

May NE Wisconsin Section Honors Banquet!

Mark your calendars for May 5th, 2011. The NE WI ACS section will host the annual Honors Banquet at UW-Fox Valley in Appleton, WI. In the meeting we recognize high school students who performed well in the Chemistry Olympiad competition, local college students with outstanding achievement in chemistry, and others with noteworthy contribution to chemistry. Details in the May newsletter.

Arlene Haffa to Present at the President’s Summit on Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Arlene Haffa, Assistant Professor of Chemistry at UW-Oshkosh, will share her efforts and experiences in a presentation, “Inclusion of Student-Centered Experiments in an Upper Level Biochemistry Course” at the [President’s Summit on Excellence in Teaching and Learning](#), April 15th at UW-Madison.

St. Norbert College Seeks Faculty

St. Norbert College is looking for a Visiting [Assistant Professor of Chemistry](#).

UW-Oshkosh Students to Participate in 11th Annual System Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity

Several students from UW-Oshkosh will pack up their posters and head to UW-Parkside on April 29th, to participate in the [11th Annual System Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity](#).

- Jacob Porter (Samuel David, Chemistry), An Undergraduate Experience in Multi-step Drug Syntheses: Making R/S-rasagiline, a Parkinson’s Drug
- Graham Radomski (Samuel David, Chemistry), A Novel, Unusual Acid Catalysed Route to Substituted 1,2-Dihydropyridine Via Double Decarboxylation
- Alexander Turinske (Nenad Stojilovic, Physics and Astronomy), Structure and Morphology of Titania-Alumina Nanofibers
- Joel Seagren (Samuel David, Chemistry), The Total Synthesis of (S)-2, 4-dihydroxy-1-butyl (4-hydroxyl) Benzoate
- Katie Struefert (James Paulson, Chemistry), Histone Acetylation and Mitosis

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Safety in Chemistry

Clearly the world is complex. The contribution of chemical research is evident in every aspect of our existence. The more we know and learn about the inner workings of our physical world, the more we need to concurrently understand the corresponding safety considerations on our health and the environment. The “On the Web” section this month highlights some relevant sites relating to chemical safety.

ON THE WEB

Chemical Safety

- The American Chemical Society has a site for [Chemical Health and Safety Resources](#)
- ACS also provides free access to “Safety in Academic Chemistry Laboratories. 7th ed.” [Volume 1](#) is for students, and [Volume 2](#) is for faculty.
- Lab Manager Magazine frequently highlights lab safety in the publication. Here is a [link](#) to their collection of safety articles.
- The [Environmental Protection Agency](#) is a good source for toxicity information on studied chemicals.
- The [U.S. Chemical Safety Board](#) has a [video site](#) devoted to the investigation of chemical safety incidents.
- A third edition of the popular general book on chemical toxicology, “[The Dose Makes the Poison: A Plain-Language Guide to Toxicology](#)” was published recently. It is a good first read introduction to chemical interactions with living organisms.
- A website, “[The Free Dictionary](#)”, has a surprising condensed summary of each element in the periodic table. For each element they highlight some safety and biochemical information pertaining. Here is their citation for [chromium](#).

<http://newisc.sites.acs.org/>