

the Alembic



Chair's Corner



Fall is officially upon us. I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy our portion of the state's colorful fall display. The drive from Stevens Point to Wausau was truly breathtaking! I am sorry our speaker for October fell through. We hope to reschedule this presentation in the future.

Fall also brings election time for our local chapter. Further in this issue you will find a ballot for the 2006 chair-elect, secretary treasurer, councilor, and alternate councilor. In addition to those listed on the ballot, we also welcome write-in candidates. The chapter is always looking to get our members more involved through elected office, hosting or volunteering to speak at one

of our meetings or other public events, representing the section at functions for National Chemistry Week or the Chemistry Olympiad, or by contributing to your section newsletter. I myself have volunteered to be nominated for the chair again in 2007 as I am finally getting a better feel for the local section and where I can make a difference.

Our November presentation will feature Professor David F. Wiemer of the University of Iowa speaking to us on the subject of herbal products and their safety. Further details on Dr. Wiemer presentation may be found later in the newsletter. I look forward to seeing you all next week.

Steve

ACS - CWS Mini-Directory

Chair

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Chair-Elect

Laura Cole

Secretary - Treasurer

Tip Randall

Councilor

C. Marvin Lang

Alternate Councilor

Dave Lewis

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American Chemical Society

Central Wisconsin Section



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

Dr. David F. Wiemer
University of Iowa
Department of Chemistry
Iowa City, IA 52242



7:30 PM Tuesday, November 8, 2005
UWSP Science Building Room A107

6:00 Dinner
Hilltop Pub & Grill

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.

Brief Bio:

David F. Wiemer received a B.S. degree in chemistry from Marquette University in 1972, before moving to the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana to pursue graduate study in organic chemistry. He received the Ph.D. in 1976 for work in synthetic organic chemistry under the direction of Nelson J. Leonard, and then continued his career with postdoctoral study at Cornell University under the direction of Jerrold Meinwald. He joined the faculty in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Iowa in 1978, and now holds the rank of professor. His honors include a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellowship, a fellowship from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, a University of Iowa Faculty Scholar Award, and a University of Iowa Collegiate Teaching Award. Dr. Wiemer is interested in the isolation, characterization, and synthesis of biologically active natural products and the field of chemical ecology. His research projects include studies of the chemical basis of host-plant resistance to defoliation by leafcutter ants and of natural insecticides and anti-fungal agents in general. He also is involved in the chemical synthesis of various terpenoids with anti-viral, anti-leukemic, and anti-proliferative properties and in the development of new methodology for organic synthesis based on organophosphorus chemistry.

Dinner will be at the Hilltop Pub & Grill Restaurant, at the intersection of I-39 and Hwy. 10 East. Dinner reservations should be made by contacting: **Steve Nieland at (715) 258-5525(office)**, or email **snieland@fmspecialty.com** by meeting time **Tuesday, November 8.**

ACS - Central Wisconsin Section 2005 Meeting Schedule				
DATE	LOCATION	SPEAKER	TOPIC	HOST
Tuesday November 8	Stevens Point	David F. Wiemer	Herbal Products: They're Natural but Are They Safe?	Steve Nieland

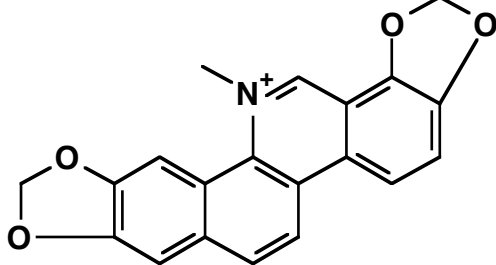
ACS-CWS Web Page

www.uwsp.edu/chemistry/acscws/

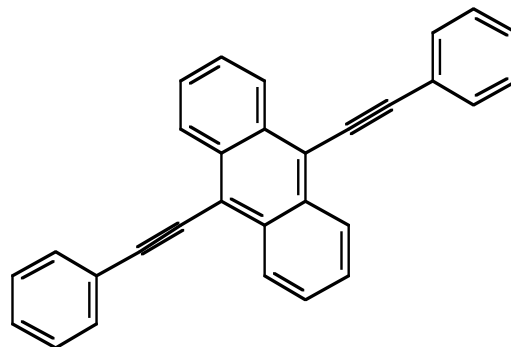
Up-to-date information about section activities including the Alembic and meeting notices.

Also visit www.chemistry.org for latest chem news.

Molecules of the Month



Sanguinarine is an antimicrobial used in mouthwashes and toothpaste to guard against inflammation brought on by gingivitis. It has also been found to protect against skin cancer by enhancing the production of proteins that induce the death of cells damaged by ultraviolet-B radiation.



Light sticks containing **9,10-bis(phenylethynyl)anthracene** dye provide a ghostly green glow on Halloween night. Bending the light stick cracks open a container of hydrogen peroxide that mixes with oxalic phthalate ester to form high-energy molecules that excite the dye molecules. The dye emits green light as it returns to the ground state.

2005 Section Officers Ballot

Mark the box next to your selection for each office.

Return the completed ballot by **November 28, 2005** to:

Steve Nieland
Gusmer Enterprises
1401 Ware Street
Waupaca, WI 54981

You may also turn your ballot in at the November 8th meeting in Stevens Point. Please indicate your choice by marking the box to the left of the candidate's or write-in's name.

Chair Elect 2006 Chair 2007 Past-Chair 2008

Steve Nieland writein _____

Secretary/Treasurer 2006

Tipton Randall writein _____

Councilor 2006 - 2008

C. Marvin Lang writein _____

Alternate Councilor 2006 - 2008

David Lewis writein _____