Sierra Nevada Section of the American Chemical Society
Newsletter April 1, 2006

2006 OFFICERS OF OUR SECTION

Chair: Brian Frost, 784-1993, 784-6804(fax); frost@chem.unr.edu
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Alt. Councilor Brian Frost, 784-1993, 784-6804(fax); frost@chem.unr.edu
Past Chair Frank Baglin, 784-6651, 784-6804(fax), baglin@chem.unr.edu

Schedule of events

April 24 Tour Speaker Eugene Stevens (see following flyer)
May (tbd) Chemistry High School awards (Sierra Nevada Section will select a presenter)
June 25 – 28 ACS Northwest Regional Meeting (NORM)
September 18 Tour Speaker William H. Zoller
October 16 Tour Speaker Stanley E. Manahan
November 13 Tour Speaker Nicholas A. Matwiyoff
December (tbd) Annual Wine Tasting

Western Nevada Regional Science & Engineering Fair

The Western Nevada Regional Science & Engineering Fair (K-12) was held March 16. Congratulations to the following student awardees: Zane Swainston, Christopher Hill, Kiana Jiron, Fred Christensen, Marielle Samii, Taylor McKinnon, Ann Kozlik, and Joe Ward. A panel of judges from our section selected projects by these students based on worthy chemical content. Special thanks to our member judges: Brian Frost, Kent Ervin, Brady Janes, Charles Mebi, Luis Barthel-Rosa, and Tom Kendrick, who also served as a judge for the county.
Northwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society

The 61st Northwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society will be held in Reno, NV this year, hosted by our section and UNR Department of Chemistry. The meeting dates are from Sunday, June 25, 2006, starting in the late afternoon/early evening, through the early afternoon on Wednesday, June 28, 2006, and the venue is the Nugget Hotel/Casino in Sparks, NV, immediately adjacent to Reno. For information on the excellent program at this meeting please visit the NORM06 website, http://www.chem.unr.edu/norm06. Abstracts submission and registration can be made online.

Note that our section will sponsor several high school teachers to attend this meeting (covering the conference fee). Please contact an officer for information to apply for this support.

April 24, 2006 Section Meeting

Please see the following pages for the upcoming meeting at Famous Murphy's featuring an ACS tour speaker. It would be helpful if all members would consider attending or at least promoting the meeting. Much effort goes into bringing speakers from the ACS tour. The tour speakers are top-notch presenters on topics of general interest. Please help us promote this meeting by posting a copy of the meeting notice.
The Sierra Nevada Section of the American Chemical Society presents

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“Green Plastics”
Prof. Eugene Stevens
State University of New York at Binghamton

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Monday, April 24, 2006
6:00 pm
Famous Murphys Restaurant
3127 South Virginia Street
Reno, Nevada
http://www.famousmurphys.com

Dinner Cost:  $20.00 per person
($8.50 for K-12 teachers, students, & postdocs)

For reservations, send check payable to ACS Sierra Nevada Section to Dale Brabham, 4630 Firtree Lane, Sparks, NV 89436. E-mail: dbrabham@mac.com. Reservations deadline: Friday, April 21, 2006.

ecessaryReservation for ACS Dinner Meeting, Monday, April 24, 2006******

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Abstract

New plastics are being developed, with characteristics not usually associated with plastic--plastics made from natural, renewable starting materials, plastics that are able to biodegrade completely in an environmentally benign manner. They are made from agricultural feedstocks like starch and vegetable oils rather than irreplaceable fossil fuels; they contribute little to the already burdensome problems of waste management; and they help prepare us for the time when fossil fuels become exhausted. This talk will describe the driving force behind the emerging bioplastics industry, survey the new technologies, and examine their prospects for the future.

Biographical Sketch

E. S. Stevens is Professor of Chemistry at the State University of New York at Binghamton. His training includes a B.S. in Chemistry from Yale University, a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, and an NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship at Harvard University. He has conducted research on biopolymers for more than thirty years and has published more than one hundred papers dealing with the conformational behavior of biomolecules, a topic he has explored through chiroptic methods. He is a member of the American Chemical Society, Biophysical Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society of Testing and Materials, and BioEnvironmental Polymer Society.