

# The Syracuse Chemist

Volume 102/Issue 3



May 2010

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## Sustainability Fair 2010 Huge Success

*Written by Venera Jouraeva*

The Sustainability Fair was a great success! More than 600 people from Oswego, Onondaga, Jefferson, and Cayuga Counties learned about green products and services provided by 49 vendors and 6 exhibitors. There was a constant flow of people coming to the SUNY Oswego Campus Arena on April 21: students from 4 to 6 pm and community members from 6 to 8 pm. Below are some highlights from the fair.



The GM fuel cell car was available for test-driving from 12 to 8 pm. Many of our visitors also attended two seminars given by Daniel O'Connell, GM director of global field service, support and infrastructure. The car needs recharging with liquid hydrogen only once per 200 miles.

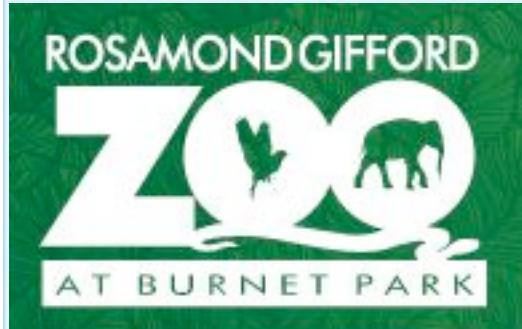
## An Evening at the Zoo!

Save the date and send in your checks for the Annual Education Night at the Zoo extravaganza!

June 16, 2010  
4:00PM - 8:00PM

Presale tickets are \$15.00  
At the door tickets are \$25.00

Indoor Zoo open to all from



Want to buy your ticket? Send checks payable to the Syracuse Local Section to:  
DJ Robinson  
2738 Brennan Road  
Lafayette, NY 13084



The vehicle can serve as a small electro-station that can provide electricity to an average American household for four weeks or can be connected to an electric grid and supply 25 households with energy for 24 hours.

NYSERDA representative Chris Carrick's table was also a big hit. Fairgoers learned that they can save more than 50% in federal and state grants and receive 2010 tax breaks on their investments into renewable energy systems. Vendors providing various types of solar, geothermal, and wind power and home-improvement/green construction

services were there to compete for our guests' attention. Organic farmers and organic health food store representatives provided information on obtaining certified organic produce year-long as well on educational and volunteer opportunities.

Utility mats & flexible pavements made of used tires and a Hybrid Motorcycle-Car received everyone's thumbs up. The motorcycle part of the car recharges the battery during city driving (30-40 miles per hour). The engine of the motorcycle can be turned on to allow for highway speed! This dream car was created by a father and son team of inventors: Robert Talamo Sr. and Robert Talamo Jr. Robert Junior is a chemistry graduate of SUNY Oswego who works as a high school teacher. A wood-to-gas truck provided by the SUNY Oswego technology department, an electric sports car, a Prius, a Honda hybrid, and a tiny metro cruiser from Smart Car were also exhibited at the fair.

The fair was organized on the university's annual Quest Day - a celebration of student and faculty research and creativity. Hundreds of presentations were given during the day and a symposium on sustainable living and a panel discussion of how each person can contribute to saving energy and protecting the environment were attended by many of our fairgoers. The event was also a great place for networking; the list of businesses working toward achieving sustainability became much longer and our vendors had the opportunity to join a newly formed coalition - Sustainable Upstate Network.

Many thanks to the Syracuse Section of the ACS for its support of this initiative, to SUNY Oswego for hosting and organizing the fair, and to the Committee on Environmental Improvements of the ACS and Auxiliary Services of SUNY Oswego for providing necessary funds. The team of organizers included ACS members: Bill Ayling, Kestas Bendinskus, and Venera Jouraeva; SUNY Oswego administrators: Thad Mantaro, Nola Heidlebaugh, Barbara Stmichel, Jack Gelfand, Dara Sanoubane; Jason Lupo who was in charge of involving numerous student organizations and the "Green Team" of student volunteers; and Richard Drosse of the Oswego County Environmental Management Council.



# ACS Results from the Greater Syracuse Scholastic Science Fair

Written by Kelley Donaghy

On March 28, 2010, special judges from the American Chemical Society, Eileen Schneider and Robert Fleischman awarded five junior level (grades 5-8) and two senior level (grades 9-12) Excellence in Chemistry Awards. The awards were given to the poster presenters that illustrated the best use of the scientific method, most innovative chemistry and the most influential results.

Junior level best achievement was awarded to Alice Jenkins of Homer Junior High School with Honorable mentions going to Benjamin Koss of Syracuse Hebrew Day School, Eric Randazzo from East Syracuse Elementary School, Thomas Storen from St. Daniels-St. Matthew's School and Morgan Smith from Manlius-Pebble Hill School. At the senior level, honorable mention was given to Kalonji Cole from Nottingham High School and the Best

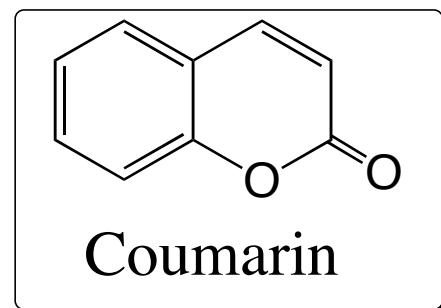
Achievement was awarded to Christian Larrabee.

Christian's poster this year was one of the best senior level entries in chemistry the judges have seen in several years. His work on the "Comprehensive Analysis of Foreign Vanillas: An Issue of Adulteration" involved the GC/MS analysis of vanilla samples

collected from around the world. His work was carried out in collaboration with David Kiemle of the State University of New York - College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Kiemle and Larrabee found that vanilla extracts from several countries including the United States contained the mildly toxic compound coumarin, banned as a food additive in the United States since the 70's.

In addition to winning the Excellence in Chemistry Award from the Syracuse Section, Christian's poster took High Honors and was advanced to the New York State Congress on June 11-13, 2010 in Albany, he took the CNY

Skeptics Award, the OCC Summer Scholarship Award and the Sigma Xi Special award. Finally, Christian's poster will be presented at the National American Chemical Society in



## Syracuse Section Now has a Web Presence!

You can find us at <http://www.syracusesection.sites.acs.org>. There you will find an interactive calendar, descriptions and links to current community events, and important news. Educators, industry, students, and professionals - there's something for everyone on our website. Visit often for the most updated information on our section's events and stay connected by joining our facebook group!

Thanks Erin for all your hard work!

# Chemistry Olympiad Results

*Written by Carmen Giunta*

The results are in from the first leg of the Chemistry Olympiad exam. The competition at the local section level was held at three sites in the Syracuse area on March 31 and April 1. One hundred and four motivated students from eight schools took the two-hour test at Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School, G. Ray Bodley High School in Fulton, or Le Moyne College. Thanks to high school teachers Bernadette VanValkenburg and Bob Morse for hosting the exam at the high schools. Carmen Giunta hosted the exam at Le Moyne and he coordinates the section's participation in Chemistry Olympiad activities.

The top scorers in the local exam qualify to sit for the National Chemistry Olympiad exam. The high scorer from the Syracuse Section was Derek Pontillo from East Syracuse-Minoa High School. The other qualifiers from the Syracuse section are Chris Ayers (Fayetteville-Manlius HS) Dana Giannandrea (Proctor HS, Utica) Shane Stone (East Syracuse-Minoa HS) Xiyu Wang (Fayetteville-Manlius HS)

The national exam is an all-day test consisting of three sections: a multiple-choice portion (like the local section exam), a set of free-response problems, and a laboratory exercise. About 800 students take the test at several sites spread around the country between April 22 and 26. The Syracuse Section's testing site was Le Moyne College on April 22. The Syracuse site also accommodated two students taking the national exam from elsewhere in upstate New York because they were not able to do so in their home sections. Dylan Bleier from Ithaca (Binghamton Section) and Prabhat Mallik from the Albany area (Eastern NY Section) joined the five Central New York students in taking the exam at Le Moyne.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Adopt-a-Stream

*Written by Kelley Donaghy*

The third annual Adopt-a-Stream event was held on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This year the stream teams from ESF chose, Onondaga Lake, Little Sandy Creek and the Salmon River as their target sites.

Adopt-a-Stream is the award winning college event from 2008 where students organize a stream clean-up and conduct water quality monitoring. The choices this year were by request, Onondaga Lake Park and the Salmon River in particular.

Participants include ESF students (125+), community members and ACS members.

The Salmon River was a new site for the team this year and the amount of discarded mono-filament line was troubling. Students plan to return there next year and to begin a campaign for recycling tubes found in other states. The river is highly overfished and is one of only a few rivers with Steelhead Trout return to spawn in the spring and fall. As a result it is an extremely popular fly fishing area, seeing close to 100-150 fishermen a day!

According to the rubrics used to assess water quality, each body of water tested this year was in good health.



PLEASE POST

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Syracuse Local Section invites you to:



# Education Night!

Come celebrate our education outreach events.

Winners of the Poetry Contest, the National Chemistry Week Poster Contests and the Chemistry Olympiad will be our invited guests.

Also, find out how you can get involved.

When: June 16th

Where: Rosamond Gifford Zoo

Who: Education Committee

Details:

Zoo will be open 4:00-8:00 PM

Dinner at 6:00

Pre-Sale Tickets - \$15.00

Tickets at the Door: \$25.00 (RSVP Only)

For Pre-Sale Tickets - Send Checks  
payable to the Syracuse Local Section  
to:

DJ Robinson  
2738 Brennen Road  
Lafayette, NY 13084

Checks must be RECEIVED by 6/7/2010.



## Syracuse Chemist

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### Deadline for material:

Summer 2010 Issue is June 30th.  
Please send submissions to  
[donaghyk@gmail.com](mailto:donaghyk@gmail.com)

Founded in 1908, The Syracuse Chemist (ISSN 0039-792X) is the American Chemical Society's Oldest Section publication issued monthly (except July and August) by the Syracuse Section of the Society. It is distributed free to members of the Syracuse Section – and to others for \$0.25 per copy or \$2.00 per year.

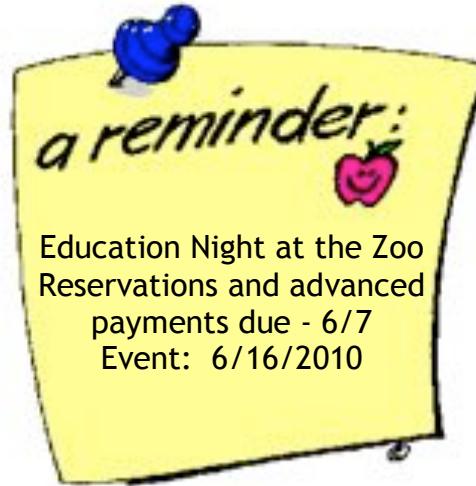
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Organized as the Syracuse Chemical Society in 1902 and chartered as a section of the American Chemical Society in 1907, the Syracuse Section now includes Central New York counties of Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego and Seneca.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
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Full Page	\$70.00
Half Page	\$50.00
Quarter Page	\$25.00
One-eighth Page	\$20.00
Circulation	525



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## Upcoming Schedule of Events

### JUNE

Education Night at the Zoo  
\$15.00 Advanced Sale  
\$25.00 at the door

Have an idea for a great event? Please contact a member of the Executive Committee or join us at a meeting!

### **Calling all College and University Faculty -**

Do you have an exceptional junior or senior who would benefit from having a membership to the American Chemical Society? Then let our Awards Chair know - Alyssa Thomas is organizing the Student Affiliate Awards her email is [acthomas@utica.edu](mailto:acthomas@utica.edu).

### **Coming in the May Newsletter -**

**Innovative Projects Grant - Corning Museum of Glass Event**  
Michelle Boucher

**High School Teachers Event at the Boston Meeting -**  
Sally Mitchell and Nicole Snyder

Details on this and More in the May Newsletter.....

