

# SPE THE SPECIALIST

## **Section MiniTec - TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2010**

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### **THE EXPANDED REGULATORY LANDSCAPE OF BIOPOLYMERS**

**NATUREWORKS, LLC** - Dr. Richard Bopp

The commercialization of biopolymers has led to the rapid growth of many new product certifications dealing with raw materials sourcing, production methodology and end-of-life options. In this presentation, we will discuss some representative examples of regulations from each category along with their impact on product development and commercialization.

**Richard C. Bopp** is a senior materials scientist at NatureWorks LLC and has been working on the process and product development of polylactide (PLA) biopolymers for the past 14 years. His primary areas of focus have been PLA crystallization, thermoforming for improved heat resistance, injection blow molding and nanocomposite technology.

### **REGULATIONS: CAN'T SELL PRODUCTS WITHOUT THEM**

**CLARIANT CORPORATION - MASTERBATCHES DIV.** - LuVerne Erickson

Brief overview of USA and other country regulations and what they mean to us as suppliers of plastic containing articles. Explanation of various regulatory bodies, what they require of a supplier, and where to find out more information ( including internet sites).

**LuVerne Erickson** started in the plastics industry with the Charles B. Edwards & Co. Inc. in 1971 as a color matcher. Charles B. Edwards Co. became Spectrum Colors after being purchased by Cookson LTD. Spectrum Colors was sold to Sandoz and merged with Reed Plastics and was called Reed Spectrum. Sandoz divested the chemical portion of their business and a new company was formed called Clariant. The Reed Spectrum name went away and became Clariant Corporation - Masterbatches Division.

### **EXTRACTABLES AND LEACHABLES**

**ASPEN RESEARCH** - Dr. Roger Pearson

Extractables and Leachables are important for plastic manufacturers and users when they come into contact with other materials that could comprise the integrity of the plastic and or contaminate a material that could be ingested orally or through the skin. The studies determine what chemicals (and how much of them) can "move" in some way from a source material (usually polymeric in nature) to another sink (food, pharmaceutical, the body, the air). For pharmaceutical packaging, medical devices and their supply chain companies, they must also comply with Regulatory Agency requirements.

Extractables are compounds that can be extracted in the presence of appropriate solvents (both polar and non-polar) under exaggerated conditions of time and temperature. Leachables are compounds that migrate into the product from the container under normal conditions of storage and use. A major challenge is that the concentration of some compounds are at trace levels. In addition, many of the compounds are often contributed by material additives (e.g. polymer antioxidants, UV stabilizers, processing aids, residual solvents).

Due to the nature of the studies, a well structured and comprehensive approach must be used so the data from the studies can be used to aid in risk assessments, to evaluate and qualify materials, and to help maintain product safety, quality and efficacy.

**Dr. Roger Pearson** will review a short background on the history, the principles of this technique and examples of how Aspen has assisted its clients with performing Leachables and Extractable studies. Dr. Roger Pearson is an industry recognized expert in Extractables and Leachables techniques. Dr. Pearson has led Aspen's micro-analytical program for over twelve years.

**For reservations or questions, email Jesse Lund at [lund0752@umn.edu](mailto:lund0752@umn.edu).**

**If you don't have access to the internet then call Jesse Lund at 651-329-8453**

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**January  
2010**

*Volume 37*

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# President's Remarks

Dick Bopp



**2009: A Learning Experience • 2010: Great Expectations**

Here we are at the beginning of a new year and it's perhaps time to take pause to reflect on where we've been and where we think we may be going?

We started the year out in economic distress. The Dow was at 8400 and we were thinking that it couldn't get worse. Then, oops! Down the slippery slope we went into the abyss for the whole 1st Quarter—no figurative metaphor this time. This was the real deal. Wall Street bottomed with the Dow at about 6600 and industry responded with endless announcements of take-backs, shortened hours, layoffs and plant closings. 401K's became 0.401K's. With the collapse of the real estate market, home owners were deprived of their personal home equity ATM's, renting became the smart real estate play and we all learned what being "upside down" meant.

Were we in recession? depression? No one really knew. One thing was for sure: it was very different and a whole lot scarier than in all the previous economic calamities we used to complain about—at least all those in my lifetime.

I've seen oil embargoes, inflation, stagflation, globalization, downsizing, right-sizing and gone through recessions 1 to n. But, it wasn't until 2009 that I began to take to heart the lessons of deprivation and sacrifice from the Great Depression so dutifully passed on to me when I was a boy. Talk about foxhole religion? I got it. There was no solid ground.

OK, Dick, what's your point? My point is that it was bad, really bad and we've survived. Maybe not because of any particularly clever moves on our part—I can only speak for myself here. But, we did what we had to do and we're here to talk about it. Now, it's time to look ahead.

Of course, things don't suddenly turn from black to all "sunshine and roses." But, the economy and, I dare say, the fate of the plastics industry is beginning to look up. Think about it. Many of the signs are there: The Dow is up to 10,600. The Fed just announced a record quarter. Companies are seeing sustained sales

growth. Job losses are declining. Hiring is beginning to take hold—even in Detroit...and the word "raise" has been reinstated in the HR dictionary.

In the SPE Upper Midwest Section, we, too, weathered 2009 and have a lot to look forward to in 2010.

## ***Here are the highlights:***

First, I anticipate that we will for the first time in many years actually experience real growth in our membership this year. The lessons of the recent past have underscored for all of us the value that SPE brings in keeping keep us up to date with new technology and industry trends. And, there is nothing better than strong person-to-person relationships when it comes to effective career development. Dan Mishek, Membership Chair, has some creative new ideas to help lead the way.

On the member education front, our section will be offering three Mini-Techs at Hennepin Technical College in Brooklyn Park on the 3rd Tuesdays in February, April and June led by Technical Program chairs, Sean Mertes & Jeff Voelker.

We'll also be bringing back a full-day MegaTech in October with a new topic and location to be announced.

On the networking front, Eric Swensied will again be hosting our popular networking get-togethers at Happy Hour. The schedule will now be bimonthly—hopefully a sign of an improving economy. The 1st Networking meeting of the year will be held at a location in Bloomington on Jan. 19th. Stay tuned for an email with all the details on future Networking Happy Hours!

***Continued on Page 9***

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Dan Mishek, Membership Chairman  
Email: Dan@vistatek.com • Phone: (651) 653-0400



Dan Mishek

As we wrap up an interesting year with many ups and downs, we need to celebrate the excitement that has occurred with the membership. We have gained almost 80 new members in 2009. This is a good sign that people are seeing value within this organization. If you are a member, become active in the events and reach out to a fellow industry co-worker and if you are not a member, join today and receive the benefits of SPE! Below are new members that have joined since September.

Welcome new members! – Dan Mishek

<u>NEW MEMBER</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NEW MEMBER</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Richard Garber	Kelsifahr	St. Paul, MN	Brian Ruhland	RTP Company	Winona, MN
Brian Carda	Raven Industries	Sioux Falls, SD	Barbra Roth	Ativa Medical	St. Paul, MN
Gregory Hammond	St. Paul, MN		Gary Barbo	Starchtech	Golden Valley, MN
Vincent McCormick	Woodbury, MN		Wayne Owens		New Ulm, MN
Phillip Beaumont		Woodbury, MN	Terry Foecke	Materials Productivity	Minneapolis, MN
Charles O'Connell	Arctic Cat	Thief River, MN	Tricia Sime	Inland Label & Marketing	LaCrosse, WI
Claude Cybulski	3M	St. Paul, MN	Keith Abramowicz	Nypro	Hudson, WI
Jay Grizzle		Chanhassen, MN	Eric Derbyshire	Benchmark Electronics	Winona, MN
Chad Ulven	NDSU	Fargo, ND	Todd Perttu	Dayakey Electronics	Savage, MN
Jonathan Schaumann	Starkey Labs	Eden Prairie, MN	Tomothy Spahr	Oxford Performance Materials	Galesville, WI
Jane Burbach	Spectrum Plastics	Minneapolis, MN	Paul Grosso	Boston Scientific	Maple Grove, MN
Patrick Willoughby	Boston Scientific	St. Paul, MN	Doug Vonarb	Solar Plastics	Delano, MN
Eric CarlsonAdalis		Minneapolis, MN	Casey Hurney	Berry Plastics	Sioux Falls, SD
James Jonza	3M	St. Paul, MN	James Miller		Andover, MN
Jerry Rubatt	Polaris Industries	Wyoming, MN	Raj Mathur	PlastiComp	Winona, MN
Robert Kean	Cortec Corporation	St. Paul, MN	Pater Nora	P N Products	Scandia, MN
Jim Moore	MadeSmart Housewares	St. Paul, MN	David Truesdale		Minneapolis, MN
Manfred Biermann	Resodyn Corporation	Butte, MT	Jim Pollard	Mullinix Packages	Fort Wayne, IN

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE BOARD

*Dick Bopp, President*

This issue's *Spotlight* features **Dave Erickson**, co-chair of the Awards Committee and our Section "Ambassador." Dave makes it a point to meet and greet new members at our MiniTechs and other special functions. He has had a long history with SPE and the Upper Midwest Section and is my "go-to" guy when it comes to questions dealing with our Section's past. In fact, Dave has the second longest continuous service in our Section with some additional time served even before that. He was awarded SPE's prestigious Honored Service Member Award in 1998 and is currently an Emeritus member.

Need the names of our Section's past presidents? Dave's got a list going back to the late '40's. And, just when you think you know pretty much all about a guy, he can surprise you. So it happened to me at lunch last week

with Dave and his lovely wife, Sharon. As we were chatting together, it just stumbled out that the Ericksons are seasoned sailors. I almost forgot that it was December in Minnesota as they recounted their sailing adventure down in the Caribbean on a 48' charter. It's 5 degrees as I write this column and I should probably get back to the here and now. So, if you make it to our next MiniTech in February why take a minute to say, "Hello?" Dave has a wealth of knowledge in plastics and the SPE. Who knows? At that time of year you might really appreciate a tale from the tropics.

Here in his own words is Dave's story. Enjoy!

*Well, I'm the old guy on the board for the Upper Midwest Section. My basic background goes back to 1958 when I graduated from the University of Minnesota with a BS in*



Dave Erickson

**Continued on Page 11**

# INNOVATION 2010 TAKES ROOT

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Early bird registration ends Feb. 5!

## WANTED

### Archivist/Historian

Recently, our past and longtime editor of *The SPEcialist*, Nancy Kochenderfer, transferred all the past section newsletters to me. Nicely preserved in boxes and Tupperware containers is a treasure trove of historical information about our section and the plastics industry in the Upper Midwest going back many decades. It would be wonderful if these materials could be preserved and made more accessible.

So, I'm calling out to the membership for a volunteer who would be willing to serve on our board as the section archivist/historian. No formal training is required.

Some of the activities associated with this position might be to arrange for these materials to be scanned into computer files; working with Rolly Enderes, our Webmaster and Newsletter Editor, to get the materials archived on the section website; authoring a regular column in *The SPEcialist* with a reprinting of news items from days gone by; and possibly even working with a professional binder to assemble and better preserve these precious documents for posterity.

Anyone interested in applying for this position should contact, Dick Bopp, President at [Richard\\_C\\_Bopp@NatureWorksLLC.com](mailto:Richard_C_Bopp@NatureWorksLLC.com) or (952) 742-0454.

Visit The Upper Midwest Section of SPE's Website

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## Upper Midwest Section (S22) Membership

December, 2009

Total ..... 423

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- Professional contacts

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Please contact

**Shilpa Manjure**, Education Chair – Upper Midwest Section SPE to learn more about the benefits of being a member of SPE and a few easy-steps to form a student chapter:  
email [smanjure@ntic.com](mailto:smanjure@ntic.com) or call (763) 225 6646

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# Councilor's Corner

**Tom McNamara**

I hope you all had a good holiday season and a happy new year!!! We on the local SPE Board are excited about the plans we have for our Section in 2010.

At the last council meeting in October the Executive Director, Susan Oderwald, pointed out that Membership growth is the Society's single biggest imperative. In order to accomplish this, the Society will need:

- Aggressive pricing, new dues structures
- Aggressive direct mail and email campaigns
- A Member-Get-A-Member Program
- New benefits
- A campaign to push the popularity and profitability of conferencing activities
- An Image Campaign

Also at Council, we elected new officers for the 2010-2011 term, which begins at ANTEC 2010.

President-Elect - - **Russell Broome**

Senior Vice-President - - **James Griffing**

Vice President - - **Bill Arendt**

Council Committee  
of the Whole Chair - - **Dale Grove**

There was a very good slate of candidates and those elected are top notch and will serve the Society well.

One of the main actions at Council was review and approval of the 2010 calendar year budget. The approved budget calls for a gross income of a little over \$4MM, with direct expenses of just over \$3.9MM, leaving a net income of approximately \$118M. The profit was only achieved through some fairly drastic reductions of staff at HQ and selling and moving from the HQ building into a smaller, less expensive building. The good news for the Section is that the budget left the rebates intact at the same levels as last year.

On the Educational Awards front, the Chase Plastics Award has been discontinued due to lack of funding. The Husky Section Award is in the process of being confirmed and, hopefully, we will have an answer in time for us to submit our application. We also believe the Student Chapter Awards will be funded again next year.



The Extrusion Division offered an SPE Student Competition proposal in an attempt to engage more educational institutions to get involved with SPE. The competition would involve building an all plastic, 1/16th scale model of an 18 wheeler. It would have a weight requirement and have to navigate a course that had curves and traveled up and down hills with the requirement that it be in total control of direction and speed at all times. The drive would have to be all plastic and the initial thought is that the fuel would be hydrogen but that is still in discussion. Benefits would include:

More student and faculty involvement with SPE

Provide a plastics event with national exposure

Engage the gen X and Y population

The Extrusion Division has committed \$3,000 and will try to solicit additional funding to maybe offer a prize in the \$15-20,000 range. The competition sounds like a great idea to challenge the educational institutions while having a lot of fun.

As is becoming usual in my column, I implore all of your help in soliciting new members for our Section. We picked up 63 new members last year but unfortunately lost more than that. Please pass on the word that our Section is operating with a full Board and have many exciting events planned for 2010. We continue to plan events in which we think professionals would like to participate including: technical mega and mini-techs, plant tours, networking sessions, golf outings, etc. Just have anyone interested contact any person on the Board listed on the last page of the newsletter. We need your help and welcome all.



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***Presidents Remarks, continued from Page 3***

In July, we will again be hosting our Golf Tournament, location and date to be announced shortly.

In December, Dave and Verne Erickson will be hosting an expanded Awards dinner in recognition of those individuals who have made significant contributions to our industry and Society.

There's much more of course. I haven't even mentioned Shilpa Manjure's efforts toward bringing on a new student chapter or Rolly Endere's plans for enhancing our website. But, that's pretty much it for our agenda for the year.

It's 2010 and I have Great Expectations, I Hope you do, too,

**Now Let's go do it!**

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**ANTEC 2010**

**MAY 16-20, 2010**

Orlando World Center  
Marriott Resort and Convention Center  
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**THE UPPER MIDWEST SECTION OF SPE  
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**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE FEEL FREE TO E-MAIL ME AT: [ERICS@HARBOR-PLASTICS.COM](mailto:ERICS@HARBOR-PLASTICS.COM)  
IF YOU PLAN TO COME PLEASE E-MAIL ME SO I CAN MAKE SURE WE HAVE ENOUGH SPACE RESERVED.**

# Award Ceremony at the Woodbury Sheraton Hotel



Paul Rothweiler, Sean Mertes, Cheryl Holmes, John Spevacek and Matthew Koval were recognized with certificates in appreciation of their development and execution of the our section's first MegaTech entitled "Getting Physical with Physical Properties" which was held on October 6, 2009 at Aspen Research Corporation.

Dan Mishek received a certificate of appreciation for his work in outstanding support of SPE and the Upper Midwest Plastics Industry through his development and sponsorship of MinniTek Manufacturing in Minnesota Conference focused on Low Volume Production which was held at the North Oaks Golf Club, August 18, 2009.



Finally, the guest of honor for this event was Mr. Dan Ralph, plastics instructor at Hennepin Technical College, who is the first recipient of the section's Distinguished Contributor Award for his Outstanding and Steadfast Contributions to the Advancement of Plastics Education, The Plastics Industry of Minnesota and the Membership of the Upper Midwest Section (S-22). Together with the Distinguished Contributor Award certificate, Dan received a stipend of \$500 for advancing awareness and plastics science education.

Richard Bopp and Paul Rothweiler at the Award Ceremony preparing to hand out awards to recipients.



*Visit The Upper Midwest Section of SPE's Website  
to apply for membership*

**WWW.UPPERMIDWESTSPE.ORG**

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## **SPOTLIGHT ON THE BOARD – Continued from Page 4**

*mechanical engineering. With assistance from my neighbor, Paul Clark, Chief Methods Engineer with Honeywell, I started in the Plastics Laboratory.*

*I spent 10 years there learning plastics. Many, many projects in plastics were connected to Honeywell at that time. In fact, in those days the Plastics Lab at Honeywell was Plastics University. This is also where I had the opportunity to meet some of the founding members of our Section. Of course, little did I then know I was destined to become a "lifer" in the plastics industry.*

*After 10 years at Honeywell, I moved on in plastics. My next stop was with Moulded Products, a suburban company in the rotational molding process. They were working with Monsanto at the time and we succeeded in improving the process to make rotationally molded parts with a proprietary crosslinked polyethylene resin that we had developed. This was a very satisfactory period in my career.*

*My next move was back to the mainstream of the plastics industry working in injection molding. This time I was with ITT Thermotech, where I worked for the legendary Tony Morris and met Tom McNamara, my life long plastics partner, friend and Counselor of our Section. This period was in the mid 70's and a mini-recession shortened my time there. But, I succeeded in starting up a lab there and am glad to see that they are still going strong.*

*My next stop was in thermoforming and expandable polystyrene (EPS) foam molding processes at T.O. Plastics. This time I worked on process improvement at their various facilities scattered around the greater Twin Cities. I found the work there both challenging and educational. But, my biggest challenge was still yet to come.*

*At Minnesota Rubber Company my career took a turn from technology to the operations aspect of the business. My job was to restructure the fledgling plastic injection molding program at the Watertown, SD facility focused on processing thermoplastic elastomers (TPE's). We had to develop a complete education process starting with the internal sales force and then moving on to all other departments involved with the plastics program. As you might guess, I spent a lot of time in Watertown. Everyone involved with the program did a real great job. The plastics program has since become a separate division at Minnesota Rubber and is doing very well today. I'm very happy about that.*

*After a hiatus for some heart surgery, I joined UFE in Stillwater in 1993 where I had responsibility for materials and applications development working with great plastics compounders like LNP and RTP. I enjoyed the interaction and technical challenges there until my retirement in 1999.*

*In regards my involvement with the SPE, I originally joined while I was at Honeywell. But, I let my membership lapse until rejoining in 1974 when I was at Thermotech. I found my involvement to be very beneficial to my professional development and was quite active in the local Section which at that time held monthly business meetings and multiple social events.*

*In 1976, I kicked my participation up a notch and began attending the SPE Annual Technical Conferences (ANTEC's). In 1984 I was elected Secretary of the Upper Midwest Section (S-22). In 1987 I was elected chairman of the TPE-SIG (Special Interest Group). Except for some time off while dealing with medical issues, I've valued my association with SPE and remained an active member even past my retirement, holding the Counselor position from 2000-2006 and now the designated "Ambassador" and Co-chair of the Awards Committee with Verne Erickson, my valued colleague, but no relation.*

*I think you can see that I've had a long and satisfying career in plastics. During that time I've found the SPE to be extremely helpful and rewarding in my career development. I've also made many, many good friends through the years. I'm sure that the same valuable opportunities remain available to me...and to you even today.*

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 21, 2010

**SPE's Polyolefins Conference™**  
 Co-located with **FlexpackCon® 2010**  
 Hilton Houston North, Houston, TX

February 21, 2010

**Materials Challenges in Alternative &  
 Renewable Energy Sources**, Cocoa Beach, FL

March 8-10, 2010

**Global Plastics Environmental Conference  
 2010 - GPEC® 2010**, Orlando, Florida

March 8-10, 2010

**Polymer Nanocomposites**  
 Lehigh University, Rauch Business Ctr., Bethlehem, PA

April 6-7, 2010

**Thermoset Conference**  
 Trump International Hotel and Tower, Chicago, IL

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