



## Green Mountain Local Section of the American Chemical Society

email: [GreenMntACS@yahoo.com](mailto:GreenMntACS@yahoo.com)

Green Mountain Section website:  
<http://membership.acs.org/g/greenmt>

### Officers 2007

Chair..... Fiona Case  
Chair-Elect..... Open  
Secretary..... Michele Johnson  
Treasurer..... Beth Medeiros  
Councilor..... Willem Leenstra  
Alternate Councilor..... Martin Case

### Committee Chairs

Awards..... Michele Johnson  
PR/Web Master..... Fiona Case  
Silver Circle..... Irv Goldman  
Gov't Affairs..... Sarah Locknar  
Newsletter Editor... Willem Leenstra

### Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, December 10** –  
Holiday Party at the Swift House  
Inn in Middlebury.



ACS website: [www.Chemistry.org](http://www.Chemistry.org)

# GMLS October Newsletter

## “Spinning Fibers”

**Date:** Tuesday, November 18, 2008  
**Time:** Dinner at 5:00 PM – Talk/Tour at 6:30 PM



**Speaker:** Ray Mainer  
Monahan Filaments

Vermont used to be the synthetic brush fiber capitol of the world until globalization changed that. Vermont is still a major player in the brush fiber market. Monahan Filaments makes fibers from polypropylene, polyethylene, PVC, and several types of nylons and polyesters. Its fibers are used in everything from cosmetic brushes to street sweepers, from toothbrushes to oil well seals, from bean pickers to synthetic thatch, and from potato peelers to abrasive brushes for cleaning steel plate. This talk will cover the history, materials and processes that go into fiber making including the marvelous step that turns a long piece of plastic into a fiber. It will end with the quest for the strongest fiber in the world and the space elevator.

One of GMLS's active members, Ray was a high school chemistry teacher for many years. For the last 18 years he has worked in the fiber industry as an analytical chemist. Like many chemists of his generation, Ray developed an early interest in chemistry at a time when fireworks were outlawed. He survived that stage long enough to have graduated from UVM in 1972 with a Chemistry degree. Since then his outside interests have extended to building boats and houses. Ray lives in Hinesburg.

**Location:** Monahan Filaments Plant  
3046 Case Street  
Middlebury, Vermont

**Dinner:** Two Brothers Tavern  
86 Main Street  
Middlebury, Vermont

Reservations are for 5:00 PM. If you wish to join us for dinner before the talk/tour, please RSVP Fiona Case by Tuesday, 11/17 via e-mail to [fiona@casescientific.com](mailto:fiona@casescientific.com) Directions to Monahan are on page 2.

## Directions to Monahan Filaments

From the north: Going south on Route 7, take a left onto Methodist Lane (just before the main road splits in Middlebury). After 0.3 mi, follow Seminary Street at about 1 o'clock. After 1 mi, bear slightly left onto Quarry Road. After 2.1 mi, turn right into Monahan Filaments.

From the south: Going north on Route 7, take a right onto Ossie Road (just before the junction with Rte 125, well before Middlebury). After 0.5 mi, turn left onto Church Street (also Route 116). After 3.1 mi, Monahan Filaments will be on your left.

Park in the semi-enclosed area in front of the building. Please be there by 6:30. We will have to be let in the side door so please wait in the parking lot until we are all there.

## Important Safety Note for the Plant Tour

Safety glasses with side shields are required for the tour. Please bring your own. Good footwear is also required (i.e., no sandals or high heels).

## Report from our October Meeting

The GMLS October event featured a fascinating presentation on the chemistry of caves given by professor John R. Marquart of Eastern Illinois University. John described the geological forces that gave rise to caves, and the chemistry that has continued over many thousands of years to create beautiful formations such as stalactites, stalagmites, and curtains of rock. His presentation included a live demonstration of cave chemistry - with the able assistance of his grandson who was traveling with John on his tour around New England ACS local sections. One of the key messages was the importance of protecting these unique environments. Ignorant and careless visitors can easily destroy fragile cave ecosystems - which is why caving groups often keep cave locations a secret.



*Dinner after the talk was enjoyed by all attendees!*

# Green Mountain Local Section ACS December Meeting



*"Holiday Party"*

**Wednesday, December 10, 2008  
Swift House Inn in Middlebury**



**Details:** We will be again hosting our annual Holiday Party at the Swift House Inn on 25 Stewart Lane in Middlebury. Please join us from 6 to 9 p.m. for the festivities with free hors d'oeuvres, one free drink, and a cash bar thereafter. All members are cordially invited to attend with a guest. This event is a wonderful opportunity to network and socialize with other local section members.

**RSVP:** If you are interested in attending, please RSVP no later than December 3 to Beth Medeiros at 802-770-7238 or via e-mail at [greenmntacs@yahoo.com](mailto:greenmntacs@yahoo.com).

**Directions:** From Rutland: Take Route 7-North to Middlebury. Proceed through town. At the end of town, you will come to a traffic light with a Mobil gas station on your left. Turn right at the light onto Stewart Lane. Once on Stewart Lane, park in the lot across from the main house. From Burlington: Take Route 7-South to Middlebury. Just before you enter Middlebury, there is a traffic light with a Mobil gas station on your right. Turn left at the light onto Stewart Lane. Once on Stewart Lane, park in the lot across from the main house.

**We look forward to celebrating the  
holidays with you!!**

## **Pictures from the Omya Open House Event**

Green Mountain Local Section members were among the many who enjoyed the visit to the Omya facilities.



***Gathering at the arrival area for visitors***



***A pile of marble ore at the first stop was a hit with everyone, especially the younger visitors***



***First stop on the shuttle-bus ride through the quarry***



***Two of the large Caterpillars that were on display in the Welcome area.***