

Kalamazoo Section ACS Chemists Celebrate Earth Day 2011 Report

On Saturday, April 16, 2011, our Kalamazoo Local Section (represented by Lydia E. M. Hines, Wallis G. Hines and P. Douglas Williams) for the 5th consecutive year participated with the Kalamazoo Nature Center at their Earth Day Event. Typical of April weather in Michigan, it was not only cold, it was also rainy; as a result our indoor activity/literature table was not as busy as in other years but we served about 200 patrons young and older. At that event we also began our publicity of the PUR water ACS-wide fund-raiser project initiated to provide for clean water in under-served areas worldwide (a community service which coincides with the Water sub-theme for the International Year of Chemistry).

Among our visitors were four individuals who visit area schools to present “earth-friendly” science programs so they were very pleased to have our **Celebrating Chemistry** publication to distribute to their students/teacher contacts. We also presented the international nature of our events during 2011.

It is always exciting to see the various levels of interest that are expressed when “Chemistry” or “Chemical” is noticed on our Banner or apparel – all who stop by hear encouragement to continue to be curious, to understand that science is a way of understanding the world around them, and to a one they are engaged in our hands-on experiment – the response is – “Is this really chemistry? It’s Fun!”

An e-mail sent to area K-12 teachers, and a posting on our Section website, requested their students’ participation in an illustrated poem competition on the theme of Energy - sponsored by the National ACS office; this netted one response from the Kazoo School (teacher Janice Russo) from an 8th grade student. Though the entry was not a national winner, the young lady was given a certificate and a furry Meg.A.Mole.

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Kalamazoo Section ACS