

Red River Valley Local Section American Chemical Society

Next Meeting

Friday, 20 March 2009 in Grand Forks

Speaker : Dr. Robert P. Bates, University of Florida

Location: North Dakota Museum of Art.

▲ 17:00 Presentation:

5:00 PM

• Hor'dourves and refreshments to be provided.

▲ *Executive Committee meeting to follow.*

Speaker's presentation:

● The Chemistry and Alchemy of Brewing.

Beer making, one of the oldest examples of biotechnology, is a fascinating study of chemistry, biochemistry, and engineering. It combines well recognized and controllable reactions and operations with complex, poorly understood phenomena, including the psychosensory response. Surprisingly, some of the most sophisticated science and technology are employed in the efficient production of mass advertised, mediocre beers. In contrast, traditional alchemy -driven methods can produce exceptional yet under-recognized beers. Fortunately, there is an achievable balance between these extremes. This presentation will cover the brewing process from raw material selection and preparation through fermentation to consumption. Emphasis will be on major pathways employed by brewers to produce a wide range of beers. These are exciting times for brewers and beer connoisseurs in the U.S. Future industry developments of relevance to consumers will be mentioned. With dedication and practice, the average chemist can brew above-average beers; so can the experienced kitchen alchemist.