

Chemists Without Borders Monthly Newsletter

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Here is the first issue of the CWB monthly newsletter. Ultimately, we hope to include the following features (in no particular order):

- News updates
- Announcements
- Weblinks
- Contacts/New members
- Contributed/feature articles
- Business related issues
- Upcoming events
- Conference call notes
- Recruitment
- Current/future project updates
- Call for volunteers/help on projects
- Networking
- Requests for CWB assistance
- Chemistry related events/discoveries (current events)

If you would like to help with the newsletter, or would like to contribute an article, please contact Steve at schambre@chem.wayne.edu. Comments and feedback are also welcome.

IN THIS ISSUE we have details on the Grainger Challenge arsenic removal proposal that Brian Wagner submitted in December, and an announcement regarding CWB bylaws and tax-exempt status.

CHEMISTS WITHOUT BORDERS SUBMITS PROPOSAL FOR THE GRAINGER CHALLENGE

by Brian Wagner

Chemists Without Borders recently submitted a proposal to remediate arsenic from drinking water in developing areas in response to a challenge from the National Academy of Engineering and Grainger Foundation.

Naturally occurring arsenic in drinking water is a pervasive problem in many areas of the world (Bangladesh and parts of India being the worst). The Grainger Challenge was initiated to develop simple, cost-effective measures to remove arsenic from drinking water. The proposal covered design elements, chemistry, required materials, transportation, installation and maintenance of a remediation system, as well as the cultural aspects of incorporating citizen input, environmental protection, sustainability, and economic development.

Our remediation system utilizes the rhizofiltration properties of the water hyacinth root (*Eichornia crassipes*) identified in a research paper authored by Dr. Parvez I. Haris[1] Water from the supply well is pumped, using solar voltaic cells for the power supply, into a 55 – gallon drum filled with dried water hyacinth root. Arsenic is absorbed into the root and the treated water is pumped into a large storage tank for potable use.

The National Academy of Engineering will be evaluating the proposals and the most promising proposals will be tested under near field conditions over the next several months. Additional testing and planning for in-country installation will take place during the summer and fall of 2006. The top three designs are scheduled to be announced in February 2007.

BYLAWS AND TAX-EXEMPTION UPDATE

By Steve Chambreau

Currently, Chemists Without Borders has nearly finished our corporate bylaws. A final version will be posted on the wiki:

http://www.seedwiki.com/wiki/chemists_without_borders

Once the bylaws are complete, we will submit the application to the IRS for tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) status. My understanding is that we can begin soliciting deductible donations as soon as the application is submitted. Once that happens, we will begin actively pursuing funding sources., and begin making our projects a reality.

Thanks for reading. Keep an eye out for next month's newsletter!

Steve Chambreau

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