

**ILLINOIS SECTIONS OF THE ACS COOPERATIVE
STATE FAIR PROJECT
WRAP-UP MEETING
held SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2004
AT ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
JULIAN HALL, ROOM 225**

Present: Frank Salter, Milt Levenberg, Chong Zheng, Avrom Litin, Fran Kravitz, Cherlyn Bradley, Craig McLauchlan, Jerod Corbin + friends of the committee

Meeting began at ~12:35 pm

1. Draft of report to National regarding how the grant was used (handout)
CB handed out a draft of the report to be submitted to the ACS for the Innovative Grant Program report. There was some discussion (primarily involving CB, FK, and ML) regarding the content of the letter. A more complete list of “submitters” was proposed. Any additional comments should be e-mailed to CB in a timely manner as this report will be submitted very shortly, i.e. within 2 weeks.
2. Congrats to all for a job well done! The committee clapped for itself and patted itself on the back.
3. Comments on what went right

NOTE: These minutes are no longer chronological as the discussion was a bit non-linear.

As we commented on what went right, we began with ML reading his “ramblings” that had been circulated. These are pasted below and additional comments are added in blue. Not all points were read, but most were.

During the course of the discussion, the question was asked:
Should we do this again in 2005? -- The State Fair will be August 12-21.

It was confirmed that the ACS National Meeting in D.C. is after this and will not conflict (8/28-9/3). After some discussion and confirmation that the 9 members present would not, in fact, necessarily be the same committee members next year, the proposal to continue this project passed 9-0.

ML read, approximately...

State Fair Afterthoughts and Ramblings

The Tent

The tent was generally good quality and, even though it looked like a tiny speck compared to most of the other tents in Conservation World, it was about the right size for our first outing. If we wanted to go to a bigger tent, we would first need to secure more funding and be assured of more volunteers. The logical expansion, based on popularity of our exhibits, would be to have two demo stations. The tent, six chairs, five tables, and four fans were rented through an arrangement Fran Kravitz made with a local Springfield company.

Avrom: There were a few pinholes in the roof but they did not allow too much leakage inside the tent when it rained. We might want to consider some sort of tarp or outdoor carpet for the floor to keep some of the dust down. A cable running between the side posts of the tent and through the tabs for the sides of the tent would keep the wind from picking up the sides and add some more security to the tent.

Lighting

The lighting was a great addition to the tent and separated us from some of the other tents that were dark holes as you looked into them from the sunny sidewalk, and not much better when you are inside. For next year we need to use the cable that came with the lights and suspend them higher up. In some places they were at eye level to taller people.

The **banner** was great. It was very professional and displayed who we are perfectly. However, we should ask the tent people next year if there is some way we can rig the banner above the tent opening so it doesn't block sight lines into the tent. If they can't do it, perhaps we can rig something. Avrom: We can rig up a frame from electrical conduit that could be suspended above the tent to hold the banner. We would need a few dimensions ahead of time ideally but this could be cut on the spot very easily too.

[AL repeated his description.](#)

I think next year we should have two **fans**, rather than four. The ones in the back of the tent are too noisy and stir up much too much dust. Two fans at the front of the tent should be adequate, with perhaps a small table fan for the person at the demonstration table. On the second Saturday we really needed the front fans. The Discovery Park tent next to us was converted to a BBQ cook-off, with ten Weber grills, all on our side of their tent, with charcoal, charcoal lighter, and cooking smoke and fumes filling our tent. We were down wind of them. We located two fans at the front left corner of our tent and blew the noxious odors back away from our tent so we could breathe without being gassed out.

[The point was raised that it was unusually cool this year. It was agreed that we should get fans no matter what. The possibility of inexpensive 2' x 2' box fans from a low-cost retailer was considered. Fun stories of the BBQ were recounted.](#)

Hands-on Experiments

The hands-on experiments were provided by Mary LeFavre from the East Central Section, and drew a lot of interest. However, because of low staffing in the tent, we often didn't have someone available to show people how to do them. For next year I would recommend that the posters by each experiment have clear, numbered, step-by-step instructions in large lettering guiding our visitors through doing the experiment. I would also prefer to have only one surface tension experiment. The coin experiment seems to have more substance to it, so I would recommend keeping it, and finding something to replace the "Water Walker" experiment. Paper Chromatography might be a good replacement experiment.

[CZ suggested using peppers or fruits instead of pennies. FK reminded the group that survey feedback said we needed better instructions for these. AL suggested paper chromatography as an option. ML suggested pH rolls instead of strips. ML also suggested putting the goldenrod paper near the hands on experiments. The following was not read but is listed for completeness...](#)

I suggest a modification for the "**Testing Water's Skin**" experiment. Instead of counting drops of water until it runs off the penny and then doing the same with the soap solution, I suggest having the guest add,

say, 25 drops of water to the penny so that the water hasn't spilled over but is starting to bulge on the penny. Then have the guest add one drop of soap solution. The water will immediately flood off the penny and on to the paper towel. This is a pretty dramatic demonstration. The pennies have to be washed and dried after each use so they don't have a soap residue, which will screw up the experiment.

We were always trying to conserve the indicator strips for the **pH experiment** for fear of running out. Next year could we get some rolls of pH paper instead and tear off little pieces as we go? I found the most dramatic demonstration seemed to be to dip the strip in the 7-Up, read its pH, then spray it with window cleaner. The color change when spraying the strip was vivid and more dramatic than dipping it into a cup of blue-colored window cleaner. The indicators leached off the strips, so dipping them in water first sometime reduced their impact. And the difference between tap water and distilled water was almost not perceptible. I don't think we need both.

We might want to mount the **Goldenrod paper** on the wall right by the pH experiment. We reinforced the back of multiple sheets of Goldenrod paper with Duct tape to hold them together and keep the edges from curling quite as much. And, of course, we wrote a short message on the Goldenrod panels with transparent tape. The message appeared when we sprayed the panels with ammonia window cleaner, which made a very impressive quick demo.

Demonstrations

The demonstrations were always the focal point of interest in the tent. Frank Salter from the Mark Twain Section set them up, and has them down to perfection, and the rest of us tried to emulate Frank's presentations. Specific comments:

The **Slime** was particularly fascinating to the younger crowd. We modified the original recipe by adding about 60 mL of water so it would flow a little faster, and we cut the amount of fluorescein and bromphenyl blue in half to make the colors brighter. We bought an incandescent UV lamp, but it didn't bring out the fluorescence of the fluorescein, and I don't know why. Its fluorescence should peak with 470-nm irradiation, which should have been well within the range of the bulb. Perhaps the slime was absorbing the UV or the emitted fluorescent wavelength. We should research this before next year. Someone suggested having hand wipes so people could clean their hands after touching it. Can we find some non-staining dyes to use instead of the bromphenyl blue?

Hand wipes were mentioned by FK as an option. Several food distribution companies (Gordon F....?) were offered as possible sources. FS indicated that Jackie Stewart could be asked to "work" on a better fluorescing/not as messy slime.

The **dry ice tank** with bubbles interested people, but we need a local source of dry ice. We also occasionally dropped a piece of dry ice in a beaker of colored water for a mad-scientist effect.

The lack of a near-by dry ice source was revisited by FS and ML. FS said he visited several ice cream stores and Wal-marts and no one knew of a source. Harsh Bapat of UI-Springfield was mentioned as having said UIS had a source.

The "wicked witch of the west" **polystyrene/acetone** experiment always amused people, but I worry about the little kids with their faces close to the dissolving mess. I think we have a potential for acetone to splash into someone's eye. Someone suggested using a water-soluble (starch?) foam next year, but I don't know if it will exhibit the rapid energetic dissolution necessary for the effect to work.

This experiment and those below were discussed together as some safety issues were brought up. FS offered to play with the cellulose peanuts in water. more safety below.

The **density layer experiment** seemed more impressive when we created the methylene chloride/mineral spirits partition and then dropped single drops of diluted aqueous dye down the center of the tube. The

drops seemed to bounce between layers and then settled as isolated drops right at the interface. A few drops of different colors often floated separately and made a nice effect. Then we added enough plain water to form a real aqueous layer in the center, and asked the audience what they expect to happen when the tube is shaken, etc. However, could we modify the experiment next year to cut down the usage of organics? How about a concentrated salt solution for the bottom layer and tap water as the top layer, then we need a bit of an organic more dense than water for the middle layer. That might take us right back to the methylene chloride. ☺

The methylene chloride came up again. CM mentioned the hardware store availability of these solvents and FS offered up Carbisol as a store-bought alternative. FS reminded all of the small amounts in use. ML asked about the possibility of using brine instead. FS said he has used the solvents straight out of the can. JC expressed his refusal to work with the CH_2Cl_2 in the demos and offered up karo syrup, water, and vegetable oil as alternative layers. No final decisions were made.

We made a **Cartesian diver** by putting a catsup package in a 2 L bottle full of water. When you squeeze the bottle the pressure forces the air in the catsup package to contract and the diver sinks to the bottom. I would recommend testing a bunch of packs first in the fish tank, and picking just the one that barely floats at atmospheric pressure. Then it will float but even little kids can squeeze the bottle enough to force the package to the bottom of the bottle.

AL asked that we pre-test the packets before using them. ML said the fish tank was a good place for pre-testing. There was general consensus that this was a fun demo.

The first few days we were using the **fish tank** filled with water to demonstrate the different densities of Coca-cola and Diet Coke. For this to come off right, we really need the real thing, Coke and Diet Coke. C2-Coke doesn't have enough sugar to sink. The last few days we set up a different experiment. An orange can in the tank, a green can and a silver can offset along the sides of the tank such that the internal reflection made you see the orange can in the tank when you were looking through the water from the front tank face towards the silver or green can outside of the tank. Little kids were nicely confused by this, but the different cans with their labels was pretty obvious to others.

FS commented that someone said this is more physics than chemistry. Probably so.

Chong suggests: The demos can be run closer to the entrance, and the literature can be at the back of the tent. Thus people from outside can see the demos, and we may draw them into the tent.

The sightline issues of CZ were countered by traffic issues by FK and others.

New demo ideas are being sought. ML mentioned those at a recent Chicago Section Meeting given by some folks. CB pointed out they were from ISU. CM named them as "Otis Rothenberger and Jim Webb" and mentioned their willingness to help this past year save for some unforeseen circumstances. CM will contact them about next year.

Computer Display

Before the show it took a while to find the right combination of computer and video board to provide us with a video output for a TV as well as a standard computer monitor output. Most of the computer gear was lent to us by Richard Cornell from the Chicago Section, and the monitor and interface board came from Chong Zheng from the Rock River Section. Jerod Corbin from Illinois-Iowa arranged for us to borrow an industrial strength computer from somewhere, but at the last minute we opted to go with several redundant normal computers instead to avoid liability from potential loss of the industrial computer. As it turned out, we got by OK with the normal computers. We ended up with a PC with an AGP slot that would accept, I believe, an nVIDIA TNT2 M64 graphics accelerator card. The 27-inch TV was perfect for our location. It gave a bright picture, large enough to see from anywhere in the tent. Fortunately, the one computer ran flawlessly 9 hours/day for the entire duration of the Fair. Cornell had also lent us a 15" flat-screen monitor which was great for setting up the computer because it was much smaller and lighter than a

traditional CRT monitor. After the Fair, Chong purchased a computer video-to-TV interface box that seems to work well and will allow us to use the output from any computer into a TV without special boards or software. I have the box at this time.

CZ said that 2 would be better. He also mentioned 2 possible TVs.

As we were warned, dust accumulated everywhere, particularly when the fans were on in the back of the booth. When I returned to the Fair on Wednesday, I brought with me a large can of Endust, a compressed-air equivalent formulated to not generate a static charge when used. From that point on, each night after shutdown I took the cover off the computer and blew the dust off the CPU heatsink, the fans, and the rest of the computer innards. My concern was overheating of the CPU. The dust may have shortened the life of the fans, but probably didn't get into the sealed disk drive. Once we loaded the programs on the PC at the beginning of the Fair we never had need to use the CD drive, so it is probably OK. I had bought a CD-reader cleaner disk but never used it.

I had set up a spare disk drive with the operating system and the programs, data and photo files we were using. I mounted the spare drive in the drive cage in the computer so that if our primary drive crashed, it would take about 30 seconds to move the power and IDE cables from the original drive to the spare already mounted in the computer cabinet. Fortunately, we never had to switch to the spare drive, but we should probably do the same again next year.

I used a program called Multimedia Xplorer (<http://www.moonsoftware.com>) to present a slide show of all the photos in a specific folder. It is easy to use and does exactly what we want. I had created a folder of photos taken at various Chemistry Day events, with some photos from some kids school projects. I also recorded "Sorcerer's Apprentice" by Dukas in MP3 format, and played it as background music through the TV.

My general sense is that the series of photos displayed every 2 seconds didn't generate much interest among our visitors. I wonder if we could get something such as the Lee Marek on David Letterman show tapes and show them instead. I like the idea of having some A/V display; it makes our booth look more professional. But we need better ideas of materials. Could we put together an interesting PowerPoint presentation for next year? Someone (I think Fran) suggested the other day that perhaps we could set up our questionnaire on line on that computer, and people could sign up for information or give us feedback right there.

FK suggested having an interactive Q/A bit on the TV to keep people interested with the show when there were no Q's. CZ mentioned that you can get remote feedback devices for use with an online textbook for ~\$10 each. He suggested 3-4 of them. CB mentioned CD's of interesting stuff from J Chem Ed [I think it is ICE]. JC showed ML a little clip from a recent National Chemistry Week demo and suggested putting "flashy" demos on there. He suggested we videotape demos at upcoming NCW events or whatnot. JC also mentioned that we must direct people to look at the TV or they will not. He added that we had good handouts. It was discussed moving the TV to the handouts side.

Each night we stored all the computer gear but the 27" TV under the table in one of the big bins, with a box of literature on top of it. I felt pretty comfortable with this arrangement, since we closed up the tent each night, the grounds are patrolled, and someone would have spent a lot of time dragging out bins of literature while looking for our computer. There are provisions to lock up the TV monitor and we probably should have done that, even though it must weigh 80 lb and very hard to carry. We did cover it with some plastic bags every night to try to keep the dust down.

Locking the TV was agreed to be a good idea.

Display Boards

The display boards worked great. We set up two as triangle towers in the center of the tent, and the other two as flat display boards behind the tables on the right and left sides of the tent. After a few days we moved the towers closer together to give us more room between them and the front of the tent. Some of the carpeting is breaking lose of the panels and should be re-glued before next year (but after winter). Fran laminated each item to display and we put small tabs of Velcro hooks at each corner to hold them on the carpeted surfaces of the boards. That worked well.

The physical boards were labeled as great. ML commented that some glue was needed for the carpet on the sides. He also commented that a fresh coat of paint was needed for the front desk. FK mentioned that cup hooks would be nice for holding the bags. AL reminded the group that we changed the orientation of the display board so that the “points” faced each other.

Front Desk

After the rain stopped on Friday we moved the desk in front of the tent, near the sidewalk. It seemed much easier to get people’s attention when we weren’t hidden inside the tent.

Avrom: The top of the Front desk could use a coat of paint before next year and we could use a sign to hang on the front of the table.

I am wondering if a better traffic flow for next year might be to have the “hands-on” at the front-left as we approach the tent, then the A/V, then at the back the demos as this year, then the right-hand tables have the literature for handout. Essentially reverse the current layout, so people entering from the left and proceeding clockwise around the tent will be drawn in by the hands-on, attracted to the demos, then pick up literature on their way out.

BTW, chances are that someone picking up a lot of literature was a teacher. When I saw someone picking up many of the handouts and asked, most of the time they were teachers, and when I told them about the teacher packets they were thrilled. Next year we should have a sign out front saying something like “let us know if you are a teacher”.

Thanks to Marsha Phillips for getting a huge amount of literature for us to hand out. I gave some to Champaign/Urbana for use in their ChemDay event and took some back for the Chicago ChemDay event, but I think we still have enough left for all of next year. Avrom: The photocopies of the common items from ACS in particular seem to go well. For the last 4 days when I was there it seemed that if we had ~50 copies of each of the handouts it was enough to satisfy the days requirements. We could use a better storage for the photocopies, maybe a folder or a paper box of each one. How about one of these desk organizers that can hold a bundle of paper in each of a number of slots?

We ran the “**Jelly Bean Test**” from the front desk. It was a great way to bring people over to our tent, then, once they had taken the test they were usually intrigued by us and we pointed out that there were some science demonstrations “just starting” in the tent. Many then went in to see for themselves. It is my impression that an enthusiastic person at the front desk could attract about half the people walking by to take the Jelly Bean Test, and then most of them would enter the tent. Many people walking by were looking for something interesting to see, and we could capture their interest.

People decided this was a powerful ploy to get people in the tent and worked very well. ML recounted some stories.

In the Jelly Bean Test, we asked people to hold their nose shut so they couldn’t smell anything, chew on a jelly bean, then we asked them if they could identify its flavor. Then we told them to take their hand off their nose. With many, a broad smile broke over their face as the flavor flooded into their senses. Little kids could often tell the flavor even with their nose shut. Perhaps it was a different physiology, or perhaps they weren’t as good at pinching their nose shut. If I thought the subject might know the flavors by their

colors, I asked them to close their eyes while I selected a jellybean for them. I always scooped it out of the bowl with a scoop (a measuring spoon) so no one handled them. I recommend Jelly Bellies because they have clear, distinct flavors. I also recommend buying them in bulk and selecting flavors that everyone knows, such as cherry, orange, strawberry, grape, and coconut.

Storage Shed

Harsh Bapat from the U of IL in Springfield located a couple of inexpensive storage shed facilities for us. The \$30/mo one was gone when I called the next day, but I got one for \$35/mo. I have prepaid for one year (it should expire 9/1/05) with a \$35 security deposit. The facility is called Parkway Pointe Mini-Storage, 3108 Great Northern Ave., phone: 217-546-7505. Unfortunately it is on the southwest end of Springfield. Coming off I-55, take I-72 west to Veterans Pkwy, Route 4. North on Veterans Pkwy to Wabash Ave. West to Hollis Dr. (watch for the sign, the street is hard to find), east a short block to Cockrell Ln., South over 2 sets of RR tracks to Great Northern Ave., east a block or so and the facility is on the right. You can also take Veterans Pkwy (Rt. 4) south from the Fairgrounds to the Wabash intersection. There are major shopping and restaurant facilities near that intersection.

ML commented that storage may be closer – he saw one out of his tent when he woke up one morning. Price would be the issue. It was also mentioned that despite several efforts, ML has been unable to confirm the 9/1 expiration. FK suggested sending a letter with a place to sign that can be faxed back.

We have locker #127 on the far back of the property. It is 5' by 10' and just about adequate for our need. We didn't see any electricity or lights near by, so bring a flashlight if it is dark when you visit. We have all the remaining literature, the display panels, the desk, the locks, the storage tubs, the "office supplies", and tent lights in the locker. It is locked by one of the set of four locks bought to secure the fans. Craig, Frank, Cherlyn, and I have keys at present. Did anyone else get a key to this lock? Someone took photos of the inside of the locker (I don't remember who), and we took somewhat of an inventory of the contents.

FS has the chains (below). He visited the locker on the way to the meeting and it looked spacious. ML had visited earlier to return a tub of materials he had taken back to Chicago. Key holder were confirmed to CM, CB, ML, and FS and FS said he has 6 keys and is willing to give some up. ML suggested locking the extras in the locker.

Odds and Ends

We had lemonade made up for the workers, but it seemed to me that I was the only one drinking it most of the time. On Friday I made about a third of the jug, and kept it through Saturday, with still some left Saturday evening. But I think we still should have it for our workers. There is plenty of lemonade powder left in the tub for next year.

Most tents had 5-gallon jugs of water and a water dispenser. One of the other exhibitors told me that it was provided by Conservation world. We need to ask about it for next year. The only water fountain I found was at the back entrance to Conservation world by the flush toilets. Fortunately there was a fresh water spigot just past the Discovery World tent that we used as our source of water. The white jugs that Frank brought were great for a number of things, including schlepping water and as waste buckets.

FK reminded all that most tents in CW are part of DNR and so are supplied with water. She will ask, though.

One of the chains and a set of four locks disappeared from our tent early in the week. They were not found when we removed and packed everything from the tent.

We had about the right number of parking passes and free admissions. I'm not sure how many people signed up with us too late to get them by mail, but I had a few of each left unused at the end. Each day I

asked which volunteers was returning the next day and gave them passes, but there weren't that many that got handed out this way.

I thought we had a great location. We were diagonally across from the dog show, and we often attracted people immediately before or after the dog show. However, between the dog show and the lumberjack show diagonally behind us, it sometimes got pretty noisy, especially when they were warming up the Hot Saws. The site had well designed drainage as the water flowed around our tent when it rained while our tent was on slight high ground that was fairly flat.

Air conditioners in lieu of fans were mentioned by FK. The Barak Obama tent had them and it was very nice. A worker there did not give specs, but said it was similar to fan rental price. General oohing from committee.

The pencils with our URL were a great idea. We gave one to anyone interested in the recipe for slime or any of the other experiments, and we are averaging 5-15 hits a day on our web page right now.

Recommend repeating this.

Fran made the T-shirts for the workers, and they really look great. Avrom burned the CDs and designed the labels and they were very welcomed by the teachers. We probably gave out 180-190 packets and had just run out of CDs at the end. Next year I would recommend we start with 250 CDs. The bags were really appreciated by a number of our visitors. I offered one whenever I saw someone carrying a hand full of stuff, as well as having a couple set out at all times at the front desk. Mary gave us her remaining rain gauges when they closed their tent, and at that point we added one to each teacher's bag, and occasionally gave one to particularly bright and interested kids watching the demos. Avrom: We have to burn a few more CD's to send to a few teachers who did not receive them at the end. I will burn them as soon as Milt sends me the updated files with all the experiments we ran during the Fair and some photos from the Fair. I will also add the web address to the label. Milt: I have sent Avrom updated files, but haven't added photos from the Fair. Do we want to add them to the CD?

FK says she is done ironing and her ironing board is dead. It was decided by AL and ML that 200 CDs were made so we need 250. The fact that we still haven't sent the CDs out to the people we couldn't supply at the fair was mentioned. JC said he has been flooded with requests for these. AL reminded that the content is online, too. AL had a few "updated" CDs with him. Pictures were discussed and FK reminded the group that we must have permission to use photos of people or risk getting sued. AL said we are only using 15 megs of space so we can add plenty of pics if we want. It was generally decided to use pictures only showing volunteers and the tent.

Though we started with assigned responsibilities for the volunteers, when push came to shove, whoever was in the tent filled in wherever needed during the course of the day. But I still like the idea of pre-assigned tasks, to give our volunteers a comfort level that they feel they know what they will be doing when they get there. Particular thanks go to Craig McLaughlan for coordinating and scheduling all the volunteers and making sure they each had a packet of information, including a parking pass and admission pass to the Fair. A minimum of 5 people worked well as it allows people to take lunch breaks etc and still cover the tent. I had set up the on-line volunteer registration and signup, and, as far as I could tell, that went smoothly and was a helpful tool.

JC commented that we need many more. CZ indicated that more student groups would be good. CM reminded the group that the ACS meeting conflicted with the end of the fair. FK asked if a pre-Fair 1 hr get-together for demo-doers was a good idea. Time and logistic issues were raised and CM asked about posting a video online of the demos. FS promised a better script. It was decided that 150 tickets would be better than 100 in case the door folks ALWAYS collected them. 25 parking passes seemed reasonable as we had 4 left over. A back-up plan of the "right colored paper" and a good copier was noted if we run short of parking passes. CM commented that the "Fair-guy" had indicated this as kosher last year. FK raised the issue that some had commented that we could get more volunteers with meal vouchers and hotel accommodations. She said hotels didn't fit in our budget but offered a lunch voucher of, say, \$3 cash. CM

went on a short tirade about students out for a free lunch and what it means to be a volunteer, etc. AL proposed renting a camp site for all. CM said, for instance, ISU's chem club provided lunch to them when they volunteered. CZ indicated NIU would do likewise. JC commented that he did not eat when he worked. ML proposed that the only real place to eat in CW is the BBQ place so perhaps we could work out something there where we reimbursed them. FK responded that the \$3 would not go very far as that was also the most expensive place to eat. JC pointed out that this is still a ~\$600 expense. CM questioned who would get a free lunch voucher and offered to, instead, feed the volunteers lunch. FK countered with food safety issues. AL said we already offer volunteers free entrance to the fair, a free t-shirt, and free parking. It was acknowledged that our attempts to pair up room-mates did not work for several logistical reasons (mostly lack of respondents) The voucher issue faded away, but discussion may not be over. On the online sign-up front, ML asked CM for any suggestions. Both CM and AL seemed to think a statement of a minimum(?) and maximum(?) per shift should be posted. CM asked ML to wipe the database clean after a data dump. ML offered to back it up to an 04 version and do so. AL asked if we should keep the data in so people don't have to retype. CM, ML, and JC voiced the opinion to wipe it clean. ML commented that so doing would limit the dead weight on the list. It was decided to do this soon and begin recruiting volunteers soon.

I think our biggest concern next year will be funding. We probably can't get the ACS Innovative Projects Grant for a repeat performance, and the Abbott Labs donation may or may not come through a second time. We can't count on it. Which means we need to start working on donations, grants from other organizations, and other sources of funding right now. At this writing we have a nice nest egg from this year to get us started.

Funding was a concern. It was discussed over the "parking meter" break some, too. FK indicated that we need to be more proactive. She indicated that companies like NALCO have grant applications. Illinois companies such as Kraft were mentioned, too. JC suggested having another section write a similar innovative grant, but CB and FK countered that we wrote the first one as Illinois Sections. FK suggested the NSF or other large granting agency. CM mentioned the Informal Science Education grant from NSF was very large, but we had also just missed the deadline. He expressed dismay for not having taken more initiative on it earlier despite having spoken with Harsh Bapat about it and planning to do something about it. FK mentioned that a prospectus was being written to accompany a request for donations. JC asked about having local sections do the soliciting. FK commented on the advantages of a central asking body.

A summary report of the result of our project is due to the National ACS by mid-November.

See item #1

Of course, Fran Kravitz and Cherlyn Bradley deserve a great "thank you" for organizing the whole project, and keeping all the rest of us on track and for making sure nothing important dropped through the cracks. Thanks, Fran and Cherlyn!

I'll probably think of a lot more things, but this is a start. Everyone please add to it. If you add in the running text, put your additions in a contrasting color, so we know the additions from the original and can compile a final summary with everyone's thoughts.

Thanks to Avrom for some great additions and corrections.

Milt Levenberg
August 29, 2004 and November 5, 2004

FK was prompted to share some of the "feedback" from the 412 surveys that were filled out. She passed out a handout summarizing the results. Statistically, based on this limited optional survey, our tent was visited most often by 40-59 year old women from central Illinois who have completed their high school education as their highest degree. The feedback form had no designed space for written comments, but 12 people made them. Most were positive but one asked for better instructions for the hands on demonstrations.

Back to non-blue minutes...

4. Thoughts on possible improvements for next year?

CM offered recycling as a possible board idea for next year. The polymer recycling could tie in well with Conservation and Chemistry. Recycling bins in the tent were discussed but could be a logistical nightmare and would require the permission of Conservation World. JC suggested biodegradable peanuts would tie in here. FS suggested doing both biodegradable and not.

Something to keep the dust down in the tent was discussed. Indoor-outdoor carpeting would be nice and affordable, potentially. AL reminded all that a 20 x 20' carpet is, in fact, 20' long and, therefore, difficult to deal with. Smaller carpets were then discussed. FS said a 6 x 9' carpet could be obtained from Home Depot -like stores for ~\$15. FS also suggested those interlocking black rubber mats but cost is likely an issue there. Several commented on the need for smooth surfaces to reduce trip hazards and the non-slick factor if wet. Carpeting was thought to ease the sliding issues with the bins under tables, too. Tent spikes (steel, not plastic) will be needed. AL suggested running a cable along the sides to keep the sides down. He said we could use the cable from the lights, probably.

On the survey forms, it was suggested that they looked nice but adding grade school as an education type, an occupation line to fill in, and a specific comments field were about all we could add without making this a cumbersome form.

Timetables were suggested by FK and seconded by CM. A May 1 deadline was set for taking care of funding. A June 1 deadline was set for demos, volunteers, display boards, hands-on activities, and CD content.

5. Annual reports on this project for our sections –

This is for the annual reports to the ACS by the Local Sections. Often as an appendix, according to ML. CB indicated we shall divide the write-ups as follows

---Demos - Frank/Jackie

---Photo slide show - Milt/Chong

---Hands-on activities - Mary/Harsh

---Info/Promo materials - Fran/Marsha

---Display Boards/Tent - Fran/Cherlyn

---Volunteers scheduling - Craig

--- Budget and Funding - Milt/Gayle O'Neill

---Website - Milt

---Survey/raffle results - Fran

--- GLRM poster – Craig

--Visitor Count and Teacher Count also to be included

6. Suggestions for improvements are to be included as are many details. Deadline to get report input to Cherlyn -- December 1, who will draft the various pieces into a full report The draft will be returned to the committee for inspection and then sent it to the reps of the various sections for their annual reports.

7. FK indicated that funds need to be moved out of the Chicago LS account before the end of the year. ML indicated he would ask Mary Newberg – the new CLS Treasurer to be the ILSACSSF Treasurer.
8. CM brought the poster showing some of the impact of the State Fair Project that was displayed at the ACS Great Lakes Regional Meeting in October. He reported that he and AL stood in front of the poster and most visitors to the poster were already involved in the project. CM commented that there were known errors on the poster but that the publicity was a good thing and the abstract is now out there. It was considered to post it on an “empty” board at, say, a National ACS meeting.
9. Next meeting date of this committee, with the potential for all new members... Feb 26, 2005. Julian Hall 225, Illinois State University, Normal, IL. CM will book the room.
10. Adjournment at 3:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Craig C. McLauchlan