



# THE PLASTICIZER

October 2006  
Volume XI, Number 2

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
COLUMBIA RIVER SECTION

## The Columbia River Chapter of the SPE is off to a great start this year!

In case you missed out, the section has already had its first meeting and presentation at the High Hat Restaurant in Tigard.

No one went away hungry for food or for technical information presented by our Guest speaker Mike Buckley of International Mold Steel as he discussed Porcerax II - problems it can solve, design, manufacturing and solutions.

Thanks again to Mike for putting on such an interesting presentation.



### Also in this issue:

Holiday Party Info  
SPE Awards Information  
SPE Meetings and Conferences  
Did You Know???  
Mythbuster Tip  
Blow Molding Output Above Expectations

### Mark Your Calendars

Wednesday,  
October 18th 6:00pm  
Location: High Hat Restaurant  
Featured Speaker:  
Keith Grandbois of Rite Systems, Inc

Keith will discuss

- coloring polymers using liquid color
- What is liquid color
- How liquid color is manufactured
- Comparisons against other coloring methods
- Benefits of using liquid versus conventional methods of coloring polymers



Two case studies will be presented to give the audience real scenarios using liquid color in two completely different manufacturing environments.

About Keith Grandbois:

Keith is the West Coast Account Manager for Rite Systems, Inc.

He started as a batchmaker/filler in the waterbase plant of Morton Automotive Coatings (IL). QC Chemist for Spraylat (IL) where he performed physical testing on one and two component paint systems. Keith entered the liquid color industry with Morton/Chroma Injecta Color Systems (IL) as a Chemist. Here he did everything from color matching, developed new vehicle systems, UV curable dispersions, pigment qualifications, and tech support. For the last five years he has been an Account Manager responsible for the entire West coast, including Canada and parts of Mexico, sales and technical support. He resides in Southern California and is a graduate of Purdue University.

## October Meeting

We look forward to seeing you at the next SPE meeting on Wed. October 18<sup>th</sup>

@ 6:00pm at the High Hat Restaurant  
11530 SW Pacific Hwy, Tigard, OR 97223, 503-246-4055  
Dinner cost: \$10.00 members/  
\$12.00 non-members/\$5.00 students

Save the



Next Meeting on  
Wednesday Nov 15<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:00 PM at the High Hat  
Speaker to be announced

# President's Message

I hope everyone will be able to attend our October meeting on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> at the High Hat Restaurant. Our speaker Mr. Keith Grandbois of Rite Systems will discuss the use of liquid colorants for plastics. Our Sept. speaker, Mr. Mike Buckley of IM Steel, reviewed the design and fabrication of Porcerax II porous steel components in injection molds, where they can be used successfully, and their limitations.

Please mark your calendars. Our annual holiday party will take place on the evening of Dec. 8 2006. Additional information will be on our website and newsletter.

I would like to welcome Eric Fisher to the Board of Directors as education chair and extend an invitation to

any section member who would like to join the board of directors of the Columbia River Section. Please call me at 503-671-1683 or send an e-mail to David.Goldwasser@Nike.com for more information.

Our Newsletter and other information about our section can be found on the SPE website at [www.4SPE.org](http://www.4SPE.org). Enter "Columbia River Section" in the search box in the upper left hand corner of the opening page, then click on Columbia River Section (S60). We will update our site on regularly.

Regards  
Dave Goldwasser  
Columbia River Section President

# Holiday Party

The Holidays are around the corner, and the SPE Holiday Party is only 8 weeks away

**Mark Your Calendar for Friday,  
December 8<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm**

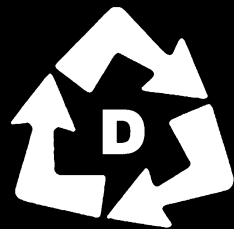
You and your significant other are cordially invited to an evening of Holiday dining

6:00 Social

7:00 Dinner

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# Editor's Notes

If you didn't make it to the R&D Plastics Trade Show on September 27<sup>th</sup> you missed a great event.

Many companies were represented there as we were able to wander around discussing their company and products.

R&D Plastics hosted an informative tour of their injection molding facility, held break out educational speakers and then hosted a great buffet for participants and attendees to indulge themselves.

Thank you for sponsoring this informative event.

If you have questions, comments, suggestions to make the Plasticizer more beneficial, educational or newsworthy, please let me know.

I look forward to meeting you at the October SPE meeting.

Regards,  
Gary Perman  
Newsletter Editor  
(360) 835-2205  
Gary@permantech.com



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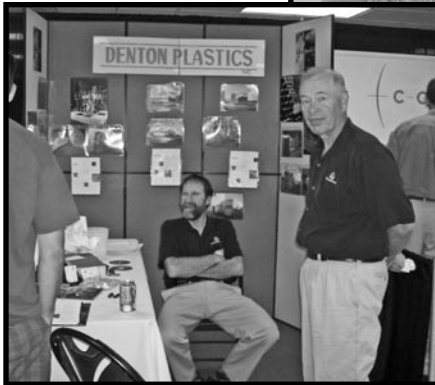
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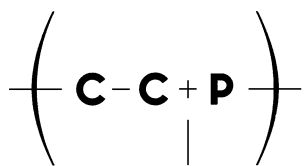
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## Not a Member?

I'm excited to be involved with the SPE as your new Membership Chair for the Columbia River Chapter. Having been a member for a year, I'm thrilled to share the benefits and activities I've enjoyed recently with others toying with the idea of becoming a SPE member.

SPE has been responsible for supporting the plastics industry and is a gateway to industry trends and information. As a member of SPE through the local Columbia River Chapter you can enjoy:

- Monthly Presentations
- Local Plant Tours

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Most importantly it is a fun way to socialize with others in the local plastics industry. If you have any questions regarding membership please let me know.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming events.

Sincerely,  
John Mark Baldwin  
Membership Chair  
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# SPE Awards Information

## The Pinnacle Award

[www.4spe.org/awards/pinnacle.php](http://www.4spe.org/awards/pinnacle.php)

The purpose of the Pinnacle Award is to recognize achievements by SPE Sections & Divisions that successfully create and deliver member value. As such, the focus of this program is to recognize those groups who have succeeded in four areas of focus: Organization, Technical Programming, Membership, and Communication. Pinnacle applications are evaluated by a committee of Section and Division leaders.

Deadline: Application must be submitted to SPE Headquarters by November 15, 2006

## Awards Program

[www.4spe.org/awards/internationals.php#international](http://www.4spe.org/awards/internationals.php#international)

The Society of Plastics Engineers annually recognizes excellence in the plastics industry by rewarding the efforts of individuals who have made outstanding contributions or lifelong achievements in plastics. The SPE Annual Awards Program includes the following award categories:

- The International Award - recognizing outstanding achievements in plastics
- Annual Awards - honoring outstanding contributions in the following fields:  
Business Management, Engineering/Technology, Research, Education and Benefit to Society
- Product Design Awards - rewarding innovation in design

Nomination of candidates for each of these awards can be made by completing the appropriate nomination form and submitting it to SPE. Nominees do not need to be members of the Society of Plastics Engineers.

Deadline: International Award and Annual Awards - November 15, 2006  
Product Design Awards - February 15, 2007

# SPE Meetings and Conferences

The ANTEC 2007 abstract submission site is now OPEN!  
<http://antec2007.abstractcentral.com>

Technical Abstract and Paper Submission Deadlines

October 16, 5 p.m. Eastern:  
Abstract Submission Deadline

December 4, 5 p.m. Eastern:  
Paper Submission Deadline

January 10, 2007, 5 p.m. Eastern:  
Final Paper Revision Deadline

## October 2006

Vinyltec 2006 - Atlanta  
Vinyl Plastics Division Conference  
"New Advances in Flexible PVC"  
October 16 - 18 2006, Atlanta, Georgia

Contact: William Thielemann  
404-253-2850  
[wthielemann@Georgiaquickstart.org](mailto:wthielemann@Georgiaquickstart.org)

## December 2006



December 14 - 16, 2006  
Orlando, Florida

Contact: Wayne Moras, Conference Chair  
Phone: (217) 479-1106  
E-mail: [chair@flexpackcon.com](mailto:chair@flexpackcon.com)

## February 2006

International Polyolefins Conference 2007  
"Globalization.....Now What?"; A review of how technology, products, resins and markets will develop and adapt in a globalized industry.  
February 25 - February 28, 2007  
Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel, Houston, Texas

Conference Contacts  
Conference Chairs:  
William A. (Bill) Diecks  
[dieckwa@cpchem.com](mailto:dieckwa@cpchem.com)  
Registration: Suzanne Biggs  
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Becky Howell



# Did You Know???

One thing that has caught my attention recently is the number of bills in

Congress and at the state level that directly affects our industry (most in a negative way). It seems quite fashionable for our lawmakers to blame the plastics industry for a myriad of problems facing the country and our environment. For instance, banning or taxing the use of plastic bags or bottles because they litter the roads and waterways. Isn't this a litter issue? Several states are trying to ban the manufacture of Polystyrene due to emission problems. Some of you may have been involved with the emission fines being levied in the state of Illinois recently. (We did, through a lot of hard work and cooperative effort get the law reversed.)

Many of us think there is nothing we can do or we are just not aware of what is going on with our lawmakers. I am here to tell you there is plenty we can do. Get educated, write letters and make phone calls. It is easier than you think and I am going to provide you the means to make a difference. Go to this web link, <http://www.bipac.net/page.asp?g=spi&content=startpage> and you will find all sorts of tools to take advantage of.

There is a link to contact the lawmaker in your area, simple pre-printed letters that you can use. Find the elected officials in your hometown. Reports, economic updates, news, a government 101 section and you can even get the voting records for your elected officials to see where they stand on issues affecting our industry.

Join the coalition for the Future of Manufacturing!!

It is easy, very informative and together we do make a difference. Case in point: we mounted a massive campaign to get congress to open the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) for drilling of natural gas to help us be more self-sufficient and bring down our energy costs.

Through many calls, letters, visits and plant tours with our legislators the vote passed. Here is an excerpt from a recent release: "This evening (June 29) the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4761, the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act by a vote of 232 - 187.

The bill was supported by 192 Republicans and 40 Democrats and opposed by 31 Republicans and 155 Democrats. Seven Republicans and six Democrats did not vote. The Roll Call



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# Mythbuster Tip:

continued...

vote can be seen by clicking on this link: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2006/roll356.xml>.

SPI had the opportunity to be very active on this vote with our coalition partners. From grassroots letters and e-mails to direct lobbying of members we were very successful in telling the industry story. One of the bill sponsors, Rep. John Peterson, even mentioned the importance of natural gas and plastics. I want to thank everyone for your important contributions to this effort...it very much paid off in a good vote that can be a signal to the Senate that it's now time to act."

We do make a difference and your voice can be heard. Together we Stand, Divided we Fall... Sounds familiar. Take action.

## Don't be fooled by fake IDs.

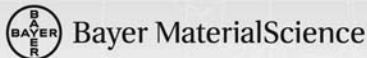
To sound more believable, some e-mail hoaxes falsely claim to have originated from a credible source, like a legitimate news outlet or an authoritative organization. BreakTheChain.org calls this troublesome trend False Attribution Syndrome. Some hoaxes even go so far as to include a real person's name and affiliation - to give the appearance that a particular individual was the original sender. Stop the spread of misinformation. Learn to research a rumor before you send to a friend.

Visit a myth-busting website that lets you search by key words or phrases. This is the fastest way to find out if someone has already done the research. If your topic turns up, you'll have more information in seconds. If it doesn't, you can always submit a new rumor for review. These myth-busting sites have searchable archives. Consider bookmarking them for future reference.

- BreakTheChain.org
- CIAC's HoaxBustersPortal.com
- Snopes.com
- TruthorFiction.com
- Urban Legends and Folklore (on About.com)



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# Blow Molding Output Above Expectations

*By Bill Wood*  
*Plastics Market Economist*

North American output of blow molded products is up about 4% for the year to date compared with the first three quarters of 2005. This is according to our Blow Molding Business Index, which measures business activity for non-PET products. During the past 10 years, the growth rate for blow molding production has averaged a steady 3%/yr. But our forecast calls for annual gains in the range of 4% to 5% both this year and next.

Though the growth in the overall Blow Molding Index has been very steady, there are some segments of blow molding that are doing much better. The fastest-growing segment in recent years has been polypropylene bottles. So far this year, demand for PP bottles is running about 10% ahead of last year, and annual growth in this market has been 6% to 7% for the past decade. Activity in this segment stumbled just a little bit in 2005 during the hurricane-induced resin shortage,

but it rebounded strongly in 2006. PP bottles will continue to penetrate the single-serve beverage market as a substitute for glass.

Liquid food bottles dominate Blow molding markets are dominated by HDPE products, and here the news is mixed. The largest blow molding category is bottles for liquid food, and so far in 2006, this sector has expanded by a hearty 5%. The long-term growth rate for this market has been 2% to 3%, but output levels hit a plateau in recent years. This market segment is poised for accelerating growth as new bottling technology allows dairy products to be stored in bottles unrefrigerated for several months.

One important indicator for future demand in liquid food bottles made from PP and HDPE is the profit levels for food processors. Resin costs for these bottles have skyrocketed during the past two years, but so has consumer demand for all types of single-serve beverages. The array of flavored coffees, iced teas, and juice drinks offered in plastic bottles continues to increase, and so do profits for the food



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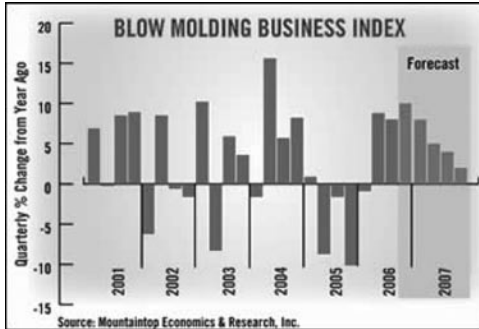
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continued...



industry. According to data from the U. S. Commerce Dept., corporate profits in that industry jumped 27% in 2005 and are up further in 2006. So despite the high costs of materials and energy, demand for these blow molded bottles remains robust.

The next largest HDPE segment in terms of volume is bottles for household chemicals, and here too the news is good. Annual production has changed little since 2001, but this year output is up 3% to 4%. This growth in household chemical bottles will not be sustained very long, but it has been enough this year to offset the decline in the much smaller market segments

of motor oil bottles and cosmetics bottles. Motor oil and cosmetics are mature markets that have been in long-term decline for several years.

Drums up, fuel tanks down  
Two other significant blow molded HDPE products are industrial drums and motor-vehicle fuel tanks. Industrial drums are another mature market, but it has enjoyed a strong resurgence in recent years. After a sharp downturn at the beginning of this decade, output of industrial drums registered double-digit growth the past couple of years and is up 10% so far in 2006. This growth will moderate in the coming quarters, but output will remain high by historical standards.

The growth trend for fuel tanks has been just the opposite. Demand for these products was growing at double-digit rates at the start of this decade, but has fallen off during the past couple of years. These tanks may

yet find a role in the lighter, more energy-efficient vehicles of the future, but for the year to date, 2006 output is down 6% to 8% and this trend is not expected to improve much in the next few quarters.

Finally, there are miscellaneous blow molded HDPE or LDPE products such as toys, playhouses, household and garden products, home furnishings, and other sundry products. All of these combined make up a relatively small market, and production levels are very sensitive to materials and other costs. Blow molding production of these goods is way down from the levels in the 1990s, but it is currently at the highest levels of this decade. Through the first three quarters of 2006, output of these products is up 5%, which is our forecasted annual growth rate for this year and next.

*Article courtesy of Plastics Technology.*

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# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## Applicant Information

**Name:**  
first last mi

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**Birth Date:** (mm/dd/yyyy)

**Demographics**  
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 General Interest  TPEs  
 Nylon  Thermoset  
 PET  Vinyls  
 Foam/Thermoplastics  No Interest

**Process (choose all that apply)**

Blow Molding  Injection Molding  
 Compression  Mold Making  
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 Engineering Properties  Rotational Molding  
 Extrusion  Thermoforming  
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