October ACS Meeting

Speaker: James Benko

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 03, 2012 at 7:30 PM

Refreshments: 7:00 PM

Location: Hope College, Holland MI
          Schaap Science Center 1000

James Benko, Sr. Chemist at MicroLab Services, will present a talk entitled:

“Silicones and Snowflakes”.

Socrates once said, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” Benko says “to examine it thoroughly you need a microscope.” The quality control of many items in industry depends on identifying contaminants and microscopic techniques are often employed to do this. A materials detective who knows what to look for can often quickly identify these contaminants to solve the problem using micro chemical methods. We will see how seemingly diverse objects such as silicones and snowflakes can have similarities. Some colorful images of chemical crystals will also be shown. The talk should be of interest to chemists as well as those who appreciate art.

Jim Benko is a chemist with nearly 50 years experience in analytical chemistry and microscopy. He is a past chairman of the West Michigan Section of the ACS and has produced more than 20 publications and patents.