



# 116th Annual Convention

to be held at the Eaglewood Resort & Spa 1401 Nordic Road Itasca, IL 60143

**DATE CHANGE:** June 21-24, 2022

For more information go to: leatherchemists.org/ annual\_convention.asp July 2021 Vol. CXVI, No.7 JALCA 116(7), 225–264, 2021

# **Contents**

| Studies on the Development of Benzoyl Peroxide Catalysed                  |
|---|
| Rapid Oil Tanning using Linseed Oil                                       |
| by Bindia Sahu, Jaya Prakash Alla and Gladstone Christopher Jayakumar 227 |
| A Comprehensive Understanding on Sewability of Natural Biomaterial:       |
| An Insight on Process Optimization during Leather Manufacture             |
| by GC Jayakumar, K. Phebe Aaron and K Krishnaraj                          |
| Hydrogen Peroxide-oxidized Soybean Polysaccharides                        |
| as Novel Masking Agents for Zirconium Tanning                             |
| by Haolin Zhu, Fang Wang, Keyong Tang, Jie Liu, Xuejing Zheng             |
| and Shufa Qin   |
| Preparation and Properties of Thermally Expandable                        |
| Microspheres for Leather Foam Coating                                     |
| by Guodong Huang, Zhixian Lin, Haojun Fan, Jun Xiang,                     |
| Chong Zheng and Zhiqing Luo   |
| <b>Lifelines</b>  |
| <b>Obituary:</b> Leo Devarenne  |
| Corrigendum   |

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# AMERICAN LEATHER CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION

Proceedings, Reports, Notices, and News of the AMERICAN LEATHER CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION

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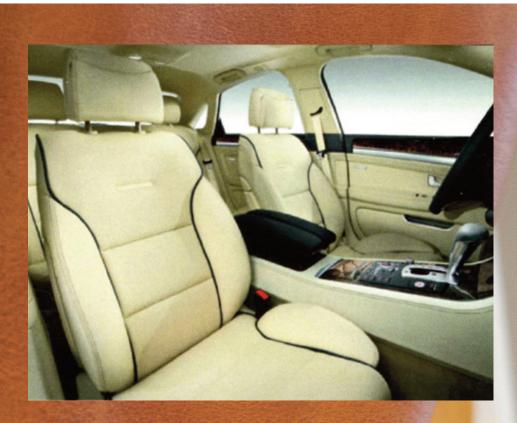
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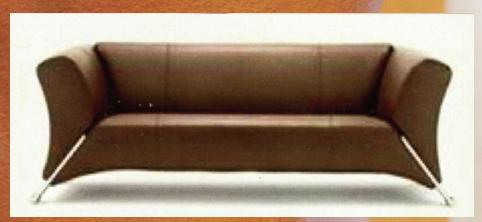
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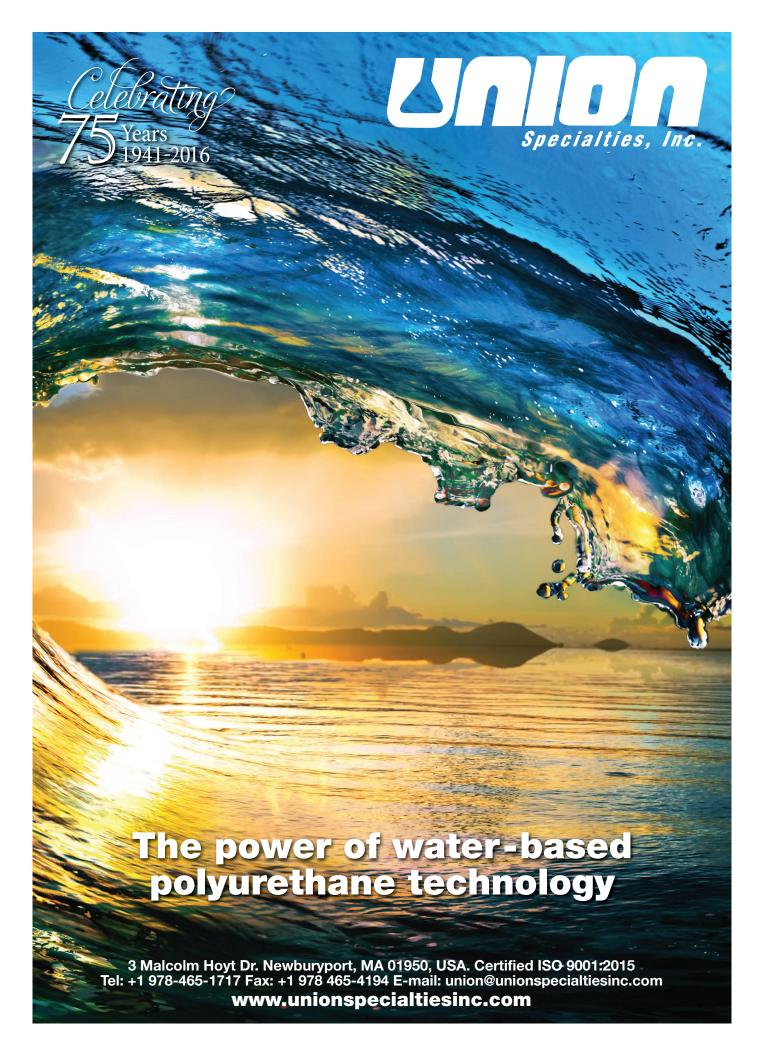


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# Smooth Leather Milling



# **Obituary**

Devarenne, age Rockford, Michigan, peacefully into passed eternity while at home surrounded by his family on June 6, 2021. He stoically outlived the prognosis of esophageal cancer in these last few years. Leo was born on August 4, 1936, the youngest of six siblings, in Massachusetts. Danvers, Leo is lovingly remembered by Sue, his wife of 58 years,



and his family Brian and Sandy Devarenne, Mike and Kathleen Devarenne, Tim Devarenne, and grandchildren Catherine, Emma, Sophie and Anna. After graduating from Danvers High School in 1953, Leo studied leather chemistry at Lowell Technological Institute. He went on to work in the leather industry his entire career. His first job out of college was in New York City in chemical sales for the leather industry. That job later took him to Chicago, where on a Young Catholics outing at Buckingham Fountain, he met Sue Miller, who would become his wife. They married in 1962, and after their honeymoon at Niagara Falls, continued on to their first home in Massachusetts. Leo's next job brought him to Wolverine World Wide, the maker of Hush Puppies shoes, in Rockford, Michigan. Leo was a dedicated Wolverine employee for 35 years. He started as a leather chemist, and then technical director. Later, he enjoyed traveling the world as a consultant in countries such as Brazil, Russia, and China. His business travel introduced him to adventurous food and drink which he enjoyed sharing with his family.

Leo joined the American Leather Chemists Association as a student member in 1958. In 1959 his membership was changed to associate and then he became a regular active member in 1971. In 1998 he was awarded life membership in the Association. He served the Association in many positions including the following: Council Member from June of 1979 to June of 1981 and again from June of 1989 to June of 1992; Chair of the Committee on Leather from September 1979 to June of 1981; Methods Committee from 1981 to 2002; Research Liaison Committee for 1982 and then Chair from February 1986 to February 1995; Selection Committee for O'Flaherty for 1984 and then Chair for 1995; Nominating Committee 1985, 1987, 1993 and 1997; Chair of Board of Tellers for 1985; Co-Chaired the 1978 symposium on Garment Leather; Specifications Review from 1988 to 2002; Chaired the 1988 and 1989 symposiums on Dyestuff and Pigments - their Use in Coloring Leather; Representative on IULTCS Colorfastness Commission (I.U.F.) 1992 to 1994; and O'Flaherty Award Recipient for 1992;

Although Leo left Boston, he retained his accent and love for the Red Sox, Patriots, lobster, and fried clams. Leo enjoyed fishing, birding, and gardening, but his favorite activity was cutting, splitting, and precisely stacking wood for winter fires in the hearth. With a young family, Leo towed a pop-up camper to state and national parks. As a retiree, he piloted a motorhome from coast to coast and from Alaska to Mexico. Leo was a kind, philanthropic, generous man who supported his entire family throughout their many pursuits and delighted in family gatherings. He was also a dedicated Catholic who never missed weekly mass no matter where he was in the world. Visitation was on June 11 at 10:00 am at Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, 4865 11 Mile Rd., Rockford. A Funeral Mass followed at 11:00 am. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

# **INDEX TO ADVERTISERS**

| ALCA Annual Meeting Inside Back Cover  |
|--|
| Buckman LaboratoriesInside Front Cover |
| Chemtan                                |
| Chemtan                                |
| Erretre                                |
| Stahl                                  |
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# 116th ALCA ANNUAL CONVENTION Change of Date: June 21–24, 2022 Eaglewood Resort & Spa Itasca, IL

Featuring the 61st John Arthur Wilson Memorial Lecture
By Randy Johnson, President and CEO
of GST AutoLeather
Title: Road Ahead

**Tentative Schedule** 

Tuesday, June 21
Golf Tournament, Opening Reception and Dinner

Wednesday, June 22
John Arthur Wilson Memorial Lecture
All Day Technical Sessions, Fun Run
Reception and Dinner, Activities - Bowling, Pool,
Darts and an Open Bar

Thursday, June 23
All Day Technical Sessions, Annual Business Meeting
Activities Awards Luncheon
Social Hour, ALCA Awards Banquet

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