

Fred-Talks

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Introduction to this Newsletter Issue

Hello again! Welcome to my newsletter. I hope you enjoy it or at least find it amusing. Or, perhaps, even irritating? I'm becoming more verbose. Sorry.

If you do not wish to receive more issues, please let me know via email.

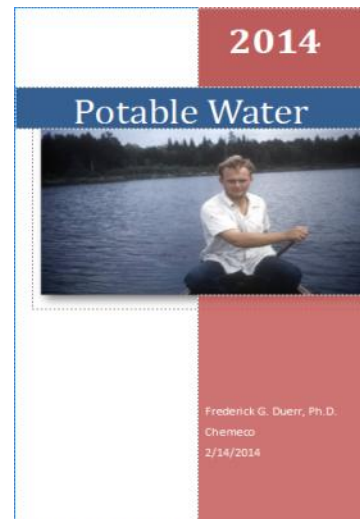
I occasionally bring up issues that are someone else's point of view, but are points that I think should be discussed.

If you have other views, I would be happy to include your comments in the next Fred-Talk, with or without your by-line. Send me an email.

Potable Water Pamphlet

I have been offering a brief lecture on potable water at the **Hatfield Marine Science Center** in Newport, Oregon over the past ten months. The subject examines what potable water is, why it is necessary for human life, and where it is found.

I still have pamphlets that I give to audiences. Send a request to **fgduerr@gmail.com** and I will email a copy to you. If you are at the Hatfield Marine Science Center, ask at the front desk for your free copy.



Cynic's Corner TANSTAAFL !

TANSTAAFL— "There ain't no such thing as a free lunch"! I am not sure who first penned this, but I first saw it about 50 years ago in Ayn Rand's "Atlas Shrugged".

I recently saw this acronym again in a blog (<http://godfatherpolitics.com/816>) wherein the author called it "The Second Law Rule of Economics". I immediately wondered what was the First Rule, and soon read "The First Rule of Economics" is "you should not steal, even by majority vote".

This all reminded me of a book my first statistics professor recommend everyone should read. The book was "How to lie with Statistics", by Darrell Huff. The book talks about correlation and causation, and how these things can account for much of what we hear about in politics and business.

I think that if there is anything worse than "**BAD**" Science, it might be "**MISLEADING**" Science. But then, how else is the poor scientist to get lucrative government money?

Website
www.chemeco.com

Newsletter Archive
www.chemeco.com/Newsletter.htm

WATER? I never touch the stuff! Fish _____ in it!
W. C. Fields

What is a Tincture? Part Two



I have received several interesting questions from the audience at my Fred-Talks lectures at Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center.

One person asked if I would explain more about tinctures, and would I give an example of the processes involved? I talked a bit about tinctures in my Fred-Talk Volume 1 Issue 8.

I decided to put an entire article on tinctures on www.fredduerr.com/tinctures. This article will give a brief background on what tinctures, along with detailed instructions on making a tincture of the herb *Echinacea purpura*. The same procedure can be used to make many other tinctures.

[Press to See Article](#)

Books I Have Read: *The Peter Principle*

By: Dr. Laurence J. Peter

The first time I read "The Peter Principle", by Dr. Laurence J. Peter and Raymond Hull, I thought it was a book on humor. I thoroughly enjoyed it, but did not relate it to reality. I was young at the time and did not think life was a serious subject.

It took a few years and a family to support, to show me that there was a more serious side to life. I also started to notice that much of academia and business processes seemed irrational, at best. Either life was becoming more irrational with time, or I became more observant and noticed things I never saw or thought much about before.

Recently I stumbled upon a copy of "The Peter Principle". As I read the examples of human behavior outlined in the book, I realized that I had, and still see examples of this behavior all around me.

For example, I was unable to give a scheduled lecture because the administration had double scheduled the room. Another time I was not able to give a scheduled slide talk because the talk was on a Saturday, no building staff worked on weekends, and the employees union would not let me replace a burned out bulb in the projector. Still an-

other time I could not give a lecture to a class because no available persons could unlock the door to the classroom.

Then, I could not renew a prescribed medicine because the physician's office, pharmacy, and insurance company could not coordinate their efforts to see that I would not run out of a necessary medicine.

BUT! After reading *The Peter Principle*, I understood why most things frequently go wrong! The book explains that:

1. "In a hierarchy, every employee tends to rise to their level of incompetence",
2. "In time, every post tends to be occupied by an employee who is incompetent to carry out its duties", and
3. "Work is accomplished by those employees who have not yet reached their level of incompetence".

The author, in detail, explains the mechanisms of this social dilemma, and gives suggestions on how to cure them.

The book also explains the causes and effects of grade inflation in academia.



A Stupid Story by a Stupid Person about a Stupid Matter

Years ago, a North Dakota State Fisheries officer asked me if I was interested in the water chemistry of a major river in his state. I replied that I was very interested in the chemistry of natural waters. He then asked if I would determine the source of nutrients accumulating in a reservoir of this river. This reservoir maintained a heavy bloom of *Aphanizomenon* algae.

He was getting numerous complaints from the public about the smell and undesirability of this reservoir for recreational activities. He thought that removing fish from the reservoir would reduce the nutrient level therein, and thus eliminate the algae bloom and solve his public relations problem.

I agreed to analyze the river water and the resident fish population of the reservoir. I collected monthly water samples of the river at 22 different locations for three years. I also calculated the nutrient content of 10 species of fish common in the reservoir. I summarized the data and concluded that removing all fish from the reservoir could not reduce the reservoir nutrient levels enough to halt an algae bloom. Furthermore, the annual influx of nutrients from the river would more than replace nutrients removed from the reservoir.

The State Fisheries officer had surmised that by commercially removing fish from the reservoir, the process would provide the public with jobs, food, and a

pleasant recreational site. My data upset him enough that he called a meeting with State officials, my Graduate Dean, my Department Head, and myself. He claimed that my data was incorrect and I should be chastised. My Dean stated that facts are facts, data is data, and that he could find nothing wrong with my methodology. The matter was dropped.

This happened over 40 years ago, and I guess that in my mind the matter is still not dropped. About a year after this episode, I quit my tenured academic position. I have avoided programmed academic research ever since.

It is my belief that research is about finding the truth of something, not proving a point. Showing a hypothesis is incorrect is just as valuable as showing that it is correct.

To quote Marston Bates: ***“Research is the process of going up alleys to see if they are blind”***.

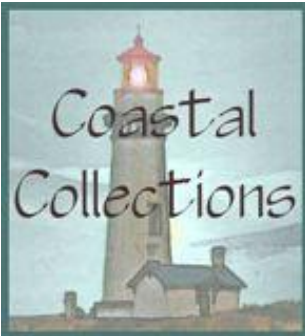
If you are interested in the research, read “Nutrient Sources and Lake Nutrient Dynamics as affected by Commercial and Sport Fishery Harvest in Lake Ashtabula, North Dakota” Game and Fish Dept. Division of Fisheries Report No. 1322 by John B. Owen and Frederick G. Duerr.

Lake Ashtabula

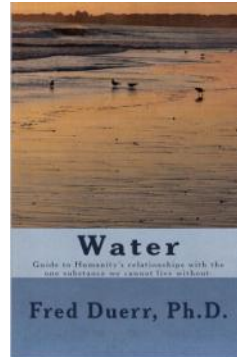
North Dakota



BOOKS-BOOKS-BOOKS



Diana and I have somehow acquired several thousand books on a multitude of subjects. Click on the image at left to take you to our website, where you can search our inventory of books for sale at Biblio.com



I have written a small, 54 page primer on water. It is designed to give basic information to the general public. It is available at Amazon, com. As a paperback book (**Water**, by Fred Duerr), **ISBN: 1482773872** and as a Kindle, **ASIN: BOOCM13KSA**

Click on the book image to the left to take you to my page on Amazon.com.

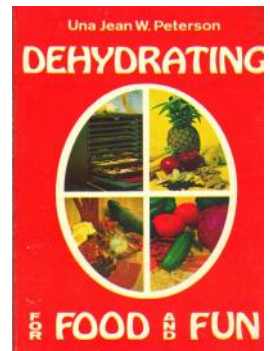
Free Book on Dehydrating Foods

I have several dozen copies of Una Jean W. Peterson's book "Dehydrating for Food and Fun". These are my own personal copies, and I am willing to give these books away.

Send me an email, and you can pick up a free copy from me (when I am on duty) at Oregon State University Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC). I will also leave some at the counter.

These books are free, but if I mail one to you, the postage and wrapping is \$3.96. Send me an email for details..

Fred G. Duerr, Ph.D.



Free Potable Water Manual

I have written a very brief pamphlet on how to find potable water. You may obtain your free copy by clicking [here](#).



Who/What's a drip?



Truth in science can be defined as the working hypothesis best suited to open the way to the next better one.

Konrad Lorenz