

“Doc Choc” Chocolate Lecture Scheduled for the Fall

Join “Doc Choc” (a.k.a. Patrick Fields, Ph.D.) this fall as he takes the Mid-Michigan AIChE on a journey through the world of chocolate, and see why Linnaeus named it *Theobroma* – “the Food of the Gods!” He will share a world of knowledge, much personal experience, and visual aids from his years of research and teachings on the subject. The program will start with informal discussion and photographic slides about many aspects of humankind’s most complex natural flavors. This will include: what it is, where it comes from, our interaction with chocolate throughout the last 3000 years, the chemical make-up, discovery, history, preparation; and some of the myths, fads, and quirky tales associated with one of the world’s most popular substances. The second part will consist of CHOCOLATE TASTING! “Doc Choc” will bring a dozen or more different kinds chocolates for you to taste and decide which is your favorite. This presentation has tentatively been scheduled for October 18, 2006. More details will follow.



Patrick F. Fields (a.k.a. “Doc Choc”) holds a Bachelors Degree in “Paleo-Plant Ecology” from the University of California at Davis, a Masters Degree in Paleontology from the University of California at Berkeley, and a Doctorate in Botany and Plant Pathology from Michigan State University. His research emphasis is on fossil plants from the Pacific Northwest! He is the immediate past president of the Michigan Botanical Club, the current president of the Michigan Botanical Foundation, and serves on the board of directors of other organizations that fund research and education on native plants of Michigan. Dr. Fields presently teaches courses in Biology, Botany, Evolution, Physical Geography, and General Science for Non-Majors at Olivet College in Olivet, MI. In his spare time, he gives lectures on chocolate, for the last five years has been teaching a Spring adult-education course on chocolate at the University of Michigan, and offers a free Email newsletter about chocolate. He may be reached at: PatrickFFields@aol.com.