

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 28, 2011

Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art presents:

**What: Biofuels: Thinking Outside the Barrel**

**When: October 6, 2011 • 6:30 pm**

**Where: Garden Room, Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd.,  
Midland, MI 48640**

**Cost: FREE**

**Information:** Call Ticket Office at (989) 631-8250 or (800) 523-7649 or [www.mcfta.org](http://www.mcfta.org)

**Find this on our website:** <http://www.mcfta.org/SpecialEvents.html#biofuels>

MIDLAND – The Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art in collaboration with the American Chemical Society presents a dynamic panel discussion, including audience participation:

**Biofuels: Thinking Outside the Barrel.** This free presentation will be Thursday, October 6, at 6:30 pm in the Garden Room of Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd, Midland. For more information, contact Gavin Lu at (989) 496-5512 or [g.lu@dowcorning.com](mailto:g.lu@dowcorning.com).

Biofuels are derived from non-fossil organic matter. Global production of biofuels, such as bioethanol and biodiesel, has been accelerating in recent years. The expansion of biofuel production, encouraged in part by government mandates in the EU and the US, could have widespread social and environmental consequences. Positive impacts could include the stabilization of oil prices, increased fuel security, the opening of new markets, new energy sources for developing countries and higher commodity prices for the poor. Negative impacts might include biodiversity loss, soil erosion, nutrient leaching and increased carbon emissions from inappropriate land clearance. Concerns have also been raised about food security, as a large agricultural shift to fuel production might dramatically increase food prices and increase pressure on small farmers in both developed and developing countries.

**SPEAKERS:**

**Bruce Dale:** In "Inventing the Biofuel Future: We Can Have Biomass for Fuel and Eat It Too," Professor Bruce Dale (Michigan State University) discusses his research on the possible social and environmental impact of biofuels.

**Russ Harding:** In "Ethanol: Boon or Boondoggle?" Russ Harding, Senior Environmental Policy Analyst at The Mackinac Center for Public Policy, shares his insights on the policy arrangements for biofuels.

**AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY:**

Founded in 1876 and chartered by Congress, the American Chemical Society is a nonprofit scientific and educational organization dedicated to the advancement of chemistry in the public interest. The Midland Section is one of 189 across the nation serving more than 160,000 members.

The Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art (ABDM) provides a forum to engage the people of mid-Michigan in the constructive and creative expressions found in science and in art. Exhibitions in the Museum, classes at the Museum School, multiple outreach programs, a permanent collection and various special events are all components in the ABDM programming.

Midland Center for the Arts, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation formed under the laws of the State of Michigan incorporating six groups: Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, Center Stage Theatre, MATRIX:MIDLAND, Midland County Historical Society, Midland Symphony Orchestra, and Music Society – Choral. Activities at Midland Center for the Arts are supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For the latest Center news, visit our web site at [www.mcfta.org](http://www.mcfta.org).

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