# The Chemistry of BEER The Science in the Suds

Second Edition

**Roger Barth** 





### **Table of Contents**

Cover TITLE PAGE COPYRIGHT PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION **READING NOTES ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ABOUT THE AUTHOR ABOUT THE COMPANION WEBSITE CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION** CHAPTER 1 OVERVIEW **1.1 BRIEF HISTORY 1.2 THE WORLD OF BEER 1.3 BEER AND TECHNOLOGY 1.4 BEER AND CHEMISTRY 1.5 ALCOHOL AND PROHIBITION 1.6 BEER TRADITION** CHAPTER 1 HIGHLIGHTS **CHAPTER 1 SOURCES** CHAPTER 1 OUESTIONS CHAPTER 2: What is Beer? **CHAPTER 2 OVERVIEW 2.1 BEER COMPOSITION 2.2 BEER INGREDIENTS** 2.3 BEER AS FOOD 2.4 HOW BEER IS MADE

**CHAPTER 2 HIGHLIGHTS CHAPTER 2 SOURCES CHAPTER 2 OUESTIONS** CHAPTER 3: CHEMISTRY BASICS **CHAPTER 3 OVERVIEW** 3.1 ATOMS **3.2 COMPOUNDS 3.3 MOLECULAR SHAPE 3.4 POLARITY AND ELECTRONEGATIVITY** 3.5 INTERMOLECULAR FORCES **3.6 MOLECULAR KINETICS 3.7 CHEMICAL REACTIONS AND EOUATIONS** 3.8 AMOUNT OF SUBSTANCE (MOLES) **3.9 MIXTURES CHAPTER 3 SOURCES CHAPTER 3 QUESTIONS CHAPTER 4: WATER CHAPTER 4 OVERVIEW** 4.1 THE WATER MOLECULE 4.2 ACIDS AND BASES 4.3 H 4.4 IONS AND BEER **4.5 WATER TREATMENT** CHAPTER 4 HIGHLIGHTS **CHAPTER 4 SOURCES** CHAPTER 4 QUESTIONS **CHAPTER 5: INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIC** CHEMISTRY

**CHAPTER 5 OVERVIEW** 5.1 STRUCTURAL FORMULAS **5.2 FUNCTIONAL GROUPS** 5.3 USING THE FUNCTIONAL GROUP GUIDE CHAPTER 5 HIGHLIGHTS CHAPTER 5 SOURCES **CHAPTER 5 OUESTIONS CHAPTER 6: CARBOHYDRATES CHAPTER 6 OVERVIEW 6.1 MONOSACCHARIDES** 6.2 CHIRALITY **6.3 DISACCHARIDES** 6.4 Polysaccharides **6.5 KNOW YOUR CARBOHYDRATES CHAPTER 6 HIGHLIGHTS CHAPTER 6 SOURCE** CHAPTER 6 QUESTIONS **CHAPTER 7: MILLING AND MASHING** CHAPTER 7 OVERVIEW 7.1 MILLING 7.2 MASHING 7.3 ENZYMES AND PROTEINS 7.4 MASHING PROCESS 7.5 DEXTRINS, LIGHT BEER, AND MALT LIQUOR CHAPTER 7 HIGHLIGHTS **CHAPTER 7 SOURCES** CHAPTER 7 OUESTIONS **CHAPTER 8: WORT SEPARATION AND BOILING** 

**CHAPTER 8 OVERVIEW 8.1 WORT SEPARATION** 8.2 BOILING 8.3 HOPS **8.4 WORT CLARIFICATION** 8.5 CHILLING **CHAPTER 8 HIGHLIGHTS** CHAPTER 8 SOURCES **CHAPTER 8 QUESTIONS CHAPTER 9: FERMENTATION CHAPTER 9 OVERVIEW** 9.1 ENERGY AND BONDS 9.2 GLYCOLYSIS **9.3 ETHANOL SYNTHESIS** 9.4 ABOUT YEAST 9.5 AEROBIC AND ANAEROBIC REACTIONS 9.6 FLAVOR COMPOUNDS **CHAPTER 9 HIGHLIGHTS** CHAPTER 9 SOURCES **CHAPTER 9 OUESTIONS CHAPTER 10: TESTS AND MEASUREMENTS** CHAPTER 10 OVERVIEW **10.1 MEASUREMENT IN CHEMISTRY 10.2 BREWING MEASUREMENTS 10.3 TEMPERATURE** 10.4 COLOR **10.5 ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION** 10.6 H

10.7 CARBONATION

**10.8 SENSORY ANALYSIS** 

**CHAPTER 10 HIGHLIGHTS** 

CHAPTER 10 SOURCES

**CHAPTER 10 QUESTIONS** 

<u>CHAPTER 11: THE CHEMISTRY OF FLAVOR AND</u> <u>STYLE</u>

CHAPTER 11 OVERVIEW

11.1 FLAVOR

**11.2 FLAVOR COMPOUNDS** 

11.3 OFF-FLAVORS

**11.4 BREWING WATER AND FLAVOR** 

11.5 BEER STYLES

**CHAPTER 11 HIGHLIGHTS** 

CHAPTER 11 SOURCES

**CHAPTER 11 QUESTIONS** 

**CHAPTER 12: Beer-Related Products** 

CHAPTER 12 OVERVIEW

12.1 NONALCOHOL/LOW ALCOHOL BEER

<u>12.2 CIDER</u>

**12.3 FLAVORED MALT BEVERAGES** 

12.4 HARD SELTZER

<u>12.5 MEAD</u>

<u>12.6 SAKE</u>

12.7 KOMBUCHA

12.8 VINEGAR

**CHAPTER 12 HIGHLIGHTS** 

CHAPTER 12 SOURCES

**CHAPTER 12 QUESTIONS** CHAPTER 13: HAZE AND FOAM **CHAPTER 13 OVERVIEW 13.1 SURFACES 13.2 SURFACTANTS** 13.3 HAZE 13.4 FOAM **13.5 FOAM ISSUES 13.6 NITROGEN AND WIDGETS CHAPTER 13 HIGHLIGHTS CHAPTER 13 SOURCES CHAPTER 13 QUESTIONS** CHAPTER 14: Beer Flavor Stability and Packaging CHAPTER 14 OVERVIEW **14.1 TYPICAL FLAVOR CHANGES 14.2 THE ROLE OF OXYGEN 14.3 STALING PREVENTION 14.4 BEER PACKAGING 14.5 BOTTLING AND CANNING 14.6 MICROBE REDUCTION CHAPTER 14 HIGHLIGHTS CHAPTER 14 SOURCES CHAPTER 14 QUESTIONS** CHAPTER 15: BREWING AT HOME AND AS A CAREER CHAPTER 15 OVERVIEW **15.1 HOMEBREWING METHODS 15.2 SAFETY ISSUES 15.3 CLEANING AND SANITATION** 

15.4 ABOUT YEAST 15.5 FULL MASH BREWING 15.6 EXTRACT BREWING 15.7 BOTTLING 15.8 BREWING AS A CAREER CHAPTER 15 HIGHLIGHTS CHAPTER 15 SOURCES CHAPTER 15 QUESTIONS GLOSSARY INDEX End User License Agreement

## List of Tables

Chapter 2

TABLE 2.1 Beer Composition

TABLE 2.2 Food Energy Potential

Chapter 3

TABLE 3.1 Elements and Symbols

TABLE 3.2 Charges and Valencies

TABLE 3.3 Polyatomic Ions

TABLE 3.4 Number Prefixes

Chapter 4

TABLE 4.1 Common Acids and BasesTABLE 4.2 pH of Common MaterialsTABLE 4.3 Concentration and pHTABLE 4.4 Hardness Unit Conversions

TABLE 4.5 Ion Content of Salts

Chapter 5

TABLE 5.1 Chain Length Prefixes

TABLE 5.2 Functional Group Designations

TABLE 5.3 Monocarboxylic Acids

TABLE 5.4 Dicarboxylic Acids

Chapter 6

TABLE 6.1 Configurations

Chapter 10

TABLE 10.1 SI Base Units

TABLE 10.2 SI Prefixes

TABLE 10.3 Alcohol by Volume Estimation

Chapter 11

TABLE 11.1 Primary Flavor Compounds in Beer

TABLE 11.2 Effect of Ions on Beer

Chapter 15

TABLE 15.1 Sanitizers

box TABLE 15.2 Brewing Start Up Options

## List of Illustrations

Chapter 1

Figure 1.1 Locations of sites.

<u>Figure 1.2 Cuneiform Sumerian-Akkadian</u> <u>dictionary of brewing terms. Metropol...</u>

<u>Figure 1.3 Ancient Egyptian tile: grinding grain to</u> <u>packaging beer. Carlsber...</u> <u>Figure 1.4 Phrygian bronze omphalos from</u> <u>Gordion.</u>

Figure 1.5 Hops, Humulus lupulus.

Figure 1.6 Brass hydrometer.

Figure 1.7 Beckman Model M pH Meter.

<u>Figure 1.8 D-Tartaric acid. Solid wedges come</u> <u>forward, toward the reader. Da...</u>

Chapter 2

Figure 2.1 Malt.

Figure 2.2 Barley. Photo: Leonid Ikan ©123RF.com.

<u>Figure 2.3 Barley head top view. (a) Two row. (b)</u> <u>Six row. *Drawing*: Marcy Ba...</u>

Figure 2.4 Barley corn.

Figure 2.5 Hops.

Figure 2.6 Malt mill. Parts removed for clarity.

<u>Figure 2.7 Mash tun. Victory Brewing Company,</u> <u>Downingtown, Pennsylvania.</u>

<u>Figure 2.8 Lauter tun. Victory Brewing Company,</u> <u>Downingtown, Pennsylvania.</u>

<u>Figure 2.9 Kettle. Yuengling Beer Company,</u> <u>Pottsville, Pennsylvania.</u>

<u>Figure 2.10 Fermenter cones, Yuengling Beer</u> <u>Company. Pottsville, Pennsylvani...</u>

<u>Figure 2.11 Centrifuge. Victory Brewing Company,</u> <u>Downingtown, Pennsylvania....</u>

<u>Figure 2.12 Kegs. Victory Brewing Company,</u> <u>Downingtown, Pennsylvania.</u>

Chapter 3

Figure 3.1 Atom structure.

<u>Figure 3.2 (a) Like charges repel. (b) Opposite</u> <u>charges attract.</u>

Figure 3.3 Shells.

<u>Figure 3.4 Sodium (Na) and sodium ion; oxygen (O)</u> and oxide ion.

Figure 3.5 Lewis dot diagrams.

Figure 3.6 Ionic bonding. Sodium chloride crystal.

Figure 3.7 Criss-cross rule.

Figure 3.8 Covalent bond.

Figure 3.9 Linear geometry.

Figure 3.10 Trigonal planar geometry.

<u>Figure 3.11 Formaldehyde. Trigonal planar</u> <u>geometry.</u>

Figure 3.12 Tetrahedral geometry.

<u>Figure 3.13 Sulfur dioxide. Trigonal planar</u> <u>geometry, bent shape.</u>

<u>Figure 3.14 Ammonia. Tetrahedral geometry, tripod</u> <u>shape.</u>

<u>Figure 3.15 Water. Tetrahedral geometry, bent</u> <u>shape.</u>

Figure 3.16 Electron distribution in a polar bond.

Figure 3.17 Polarity cancellation.

Figure 3.18 Nonpolar; temporary polarity.

Figure 3.19 Gallic acid, a phenolic compound.

Figure 3.20 Dipole-dipole interaction.

Figure 3.21 Hydrogen bonding.

<u>Figure 3.22 Oxidation-reduction: acetaldehyde +</u> <u>hydroquinone  $\rightarrow$  ethanol + ben...</u>

Figure 3.23 Ethanol.

Figure 3.24 Acetaldehyde.

Chapter 4

Figure 4.1 Water.

Figure 4.2 Hydrated ions.

Figure 4.3 Acid reaction with water.

Figure 4.4 Base reaction with water.

Figure 4.5 (a) Acidic solution. (b) Basic solution.

Figure 4.6 EDTA.

Figure 4.7 Filtration.

Figure 4.8 Osmosis.

Figure 4.9 Ion exchange.

Chapter 5

<u>Figure 5.1 Butanal structural formulas. (a) Lewis</u> <u>structure. (b) Condensed s...</u>

<u>Figure 5.2 (a) Phenylalanine Lewis structure. (b)</u> <u>Phenylalanine modified ske...</u>

<u>Figure 5.3 Alkyl groups. (a) Methyl. (b) Ethyl. (c) 1-</u> <u>Propyl. (d) 2-Propyl....</u>

Figure 5.4 Caryophyllene, an alkene in hops.

<u>Figure 5.5 Geometric isomers of 2-butene. (a) (*E*)-2butene. (b) (*Z*)-2-butene...</u>

Figure 5.6 Addition reaction.

Figure 5.7 Adenine.

Figure 5.8 Ethanol.

Figure 5.9 Phenol.

Figure 5.10 Cyclic ether: maltol.

<u>Figure 5.11 Amines. (a) Ethanamine: primary</u> <u>amine. (b) *N*-methylethanamine: s...</u>

Figure 5.12 Piperidine: cyclic secondary amine.

Figure 5.13 Ethanamine as base.

Figure 5.14 Dopamine: neurotransmitter.

Figure 5.15 Carbonyl group.

Figure 5.16 Acetone: ketone.

Figure 5.17 Ethanal (acetaldehyde).

Figure 5.18 Hemiacetal formation.

Figure 5.19 Keto-enol tautomerism.

Figure 5.20 Reaction of acetic acid with water.

<u>Figure 5.21 Amide formation. (a) Carboxylic acid.</u> (b) Amine. (c) Amide.

Figure 5.22 Ester formation.

Figure 5.23 Anhydride formation. (a) Propanoic acid (carboxylic acid). (b) P...

Figure 5.24 Ethoxymethanol.

Chapter 6

<u>Figure 6.1 Monosaccharides. (a) Dihydroxyacetone.</u> (b) (R)-glyceraldehyde.

<u>Figure 6.2 D-Glucose hemiacetal formation.</u> <u>Highlighted OH adds across green ...</u>

<u>Figure 6.3 Chirality. (a) Chiral molecule. (b) Mirror</u> <u>image. (c) Mirror imag...</u>

Figure 6.4 Alanine with CIP priorities.

<u>Figure 6.5 Alanine, viewed with fourth priority item</u> (<u>H, not visible in this...</u>

Figure 6.6 Enantiomers and diastereomers.

Figure 6.7 Anomers. (a) Alpha: (S) configuration. (b) Beta: (R) configuratio...

<u>Figure 6.8 Axial-equatorial. Solid (blue): axial;</u> <u>dashed (orange): equatoria...</u>

Figure 6.9 Maltose.

Figure 6.10 Cellobiose.

Figure 6.11 Amylose.

<u>Figure 6.12 1  $\rightarrow$  6 branch.</u>

Figure 6.13 Beta glucan gum.

Chapter 7

Figure 7.1 (a) Whole malt. (b) Crushed malt.

<u>Figure 7.2 Mashing in at Susquehanna Brewing</u> <u>Company, Pittston, Pennsylvania...</u>

Figure 7.3 Hydrolysis of a glycosidic link.

<u>Figure 7.4 Two-molecule reaction. A: attacking</u> <u>group, L: leaving group.</u>

Figure 7.5 Amino acid.

Figure 7.6 Peptide bond.

Figure 7.7 Amino acids.

<u>Figure 7.8 Enzyme. (a) Vacant. (b) With substrate.</u> (c) Induced fit. (d) Prod...

<u>Figure 7.9 Amylase mechanism.</u> Source: Farber and Barth, 2019.

<u>Figure 7.10 Alpha-amylase. (a) Full view. (b) Active</u> <u>site detail. Glu = glut...</u> Figure 7.11 Mash tun. *Source:* Farber and Barth, 2019.

Chapter 8

<u>Figure 8.1 Lauter tun. Victory Brewing Company,</u> <u>Parkesburg, Pennsylvania. *Ph...*</u>

Figure 8.2 Lauter tun.

Figure 8.3 Mash filtration. (a) Filling. (b) Inflation.

<u>Figure 8.4 External calandria. Victory Brewing,</u> <u>Parkesburg, Pennsylvania. *Ph...*</u>

Figure 8.5 Hop strobile cut in half.

<u>Figure 8.6 Humulone isomerization. Blue arrow</u> <u>shows new asymmetric carbon. S...</u>

Figure 8.7 Hop pellets, 5 mm diameter.

<u>Figure 8.8 Hydrogenated hop bitter compounds. (a)</u> <u>Cis-isohumulone, hydrogena...</u>

Figure 8.9 Whirlpool.

Figure 8.10 Countercurrent chiller.

Chapter 9

Figure 9.1 ATP.

Figure 9.2 ATP modules.

box Figure 9.3 ATP hydrolysis. Bonds broken and made are marked.

<u>Figure 9.4 Hydrogen phosphate ion resonance</u> <u>forms.</u>

Figure 9.5 Pyruvic acid.

Figure 9.6 Phosphorylation and isomerization.

<u>Figure 9.7 Sugar break-up. Fructose diphosphate  $\rightarrow$  phosphoglyceraldehyde.</u>

<u>Figure 9.8 Phosphorylation and oxidation of aldehyde to anhydride.</u>

<u>Figure 9.9 Oxidation of carbon. Electrons allocated</u> <u>to C=O carbon: black dot...</u>

Figure 9.10 ATP production.

Figure 9.11 Decarboxylation of pyruvic acid.

Figure 9.12 Hydrogenation of acetaldehyde to ethanol.

Figure 9.13 Lipid bilayer. Drawing: Marcy Barth.

Figure 9.14 Membrane phospholipid.

Figure 9.15 Ergosterol.

<u>Figure 9.16 Synthesis of isoamyl alcohol. (a)</u> <u>Leucine. (b) 2-Oxoglutaric aci...</u>

Figure 9.17 Acetyl coenzyme A.

Chapter 10

Figure 10.1 Hydrometer.

Figure 10.2 Reading a hydrometer.

Figure 10.3 Refractometer.

Figure 10.4 Liquid-in-glass thermometers.

Figure 10.5 Dial thermometer.

Figure 10.6 Remote reading thermometer.

box Figure 10.7 Light absorption.

Figure 10.8 Gas chromatograph.

<u>Figure 10.9 pH meter with combination electrode.</u> <u>*Photo*: Roger Barth.</u>

Chapter 11

Figure 11.1 Taste bud.

Figure 11.2 Aspartame.

Figure 11.3 Denatonium ion. Bitterest compound.

<u>Figure 11.4 Aroma transduction. (a) No aroma. (b)</u> <u>Aroma molecule binds, mess...</u>

Figure 11.5 cAMP synthesis.

<u>Figure 11.6 Iso-alpha acids. (a)</u> *Cis*-isohumulone. (b) *Cis*-isocohumulone. (c)...

<u>Figure 11.7 (a) *Cis*-isohumulone enol form,</u> <u>conjugated double bonds highlight...</u>

Figure 11.8 2-Methylpyrazine.

<u>Figure 11.9 Yeast-derived esters. (a) Ethyl acetate:</u> <u>fruit, solvent. (b) Iso...</u>

<u>Figure 11.10 Hop-derived esters. (a) Isobutyl</u> <u>isobutyrate: tropical fruit. (...</u>

<u>Figure 11.11 (a) Acetic acid. (b) Ethanol. (c)</u> <u>Isobutyric acid (2-methylprop...</u>

<u>Figure 11.12 Hop aroma compounds. (a) Myrcene.</u> (b) Geraniol. (c) (R)-linaloo...

<u>Figure 11.13 Schiff base formation. (a) Sugar. (b)</u> <u>Schiff base.</u>

<u>Figure 11.14 Amadori reaction. (a) Schiff base. (b)</u> <u>Dicarbonyl sugar.</u>

<u>Figure 11.15 Synthesis of maltol. (a) Dicarbonyl</u> <u>sugar. (b) Maltol.</u>

<u>Figure 11.16 Synthesis of 4-vinyl guaiacol (4VG).</u> (a) Ferulic acid. (b) 4VG....

Figure 11.17 Lactic acid.

Figure 11.18 Guaiacol.

<u>Figure 11.19 Vicinal diketones. (a) Diacetyl. (b) 2,3-</u> <u>Pentanedione.</u>

<u>Figure 11.20 Production of DMS. (a) *S*methylmethionine. (b) DMS. (c) Homoser...</u>

Figure 11.21 Dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO).

Figure 11.22 (E)-2-nonenal.

Figure 11.23 Lightstruck reaction.

Chapter 12

Figure 12.1 Thin film evaporator.

<u>Figure 12.2 Membrane technologies. (a) Dialysis.</u> (b) Reverse osmosis. (c) Pe...

Chapter 13

<u>Figure 13.1 Making new surface. (a) Liquid sample.</u> (b) Slice with forces. (c...

Figure 13.2 Surfactant: dodecyl sulfate ion.

Figure 13.3 Light scattering from haze.

Figure 13.4 Carrageenan.

<u>Figure 13.5 Polyvinylpolypyrrolidone (PVPP).</u>

<u>Figure 13.6 (a) Fresh foam. (b) Foam draining. (c)</u> <u>Drained foam. (d) After C...</u>

<u>Figure 13.7 Bubble with surfactant. Hydrophilic</u> <u>end of surfactant shown in r...</u>

<u>Figure 13.8 *Cis*-isohumulone, bitter compound,</u> <u>and surfactant. Hydropho...</u>

Chapter 14

<u>Figure 14.1 3-Mercapto-3-methylbutyl formate.</u> <u>Catty flavor.</u>

Figure 14.2 Trans-2-nonenal.

Figure 14.3 Oxygen molecule.

Figure 14.4 Radical abstraction.

Figure 14.5 Radical addition.

<u>Figure 14.6 (a) Hydroperoxyl radical abstracts H,</u> <u>yielding hydrogen peroxide...</u>

Figure 14.7 Complex ion formation.

Figure 14.8 Phytic acid.

Figure 14.9 Cask.

Figure 14.10 Keg spear. (a) Closed. (b) Open.

Figure 14.11 (a) Epichlorohydrin. (b) Bisphenol A.

Chapter 15

Figure 15.1 Brew pot and spoon.

Figure 15.2 Author with mill.

Figure 15.3 Mash tun with false bottom and valve.

Figure 15.4 Wort chiller.

Figure 15.5 Fermenter with fermentation lock.

Figure 15.6 Glass carboy with carrier straps.

<u>Figure 15.7 Stainless steel fermentation bucket.</u> <u>Source: Ss Brewtech. Used w...</u>

Figure 15.8 Aerating.

Figure 15.9 Bottle washer.

<u>Figure 15.10 Bottle filler. (a) Assembled. (b) Parts.</u> (c) Filling.

Figure 15.11 Bottle capper.

## THE CHEMISTRY OF BEER

**The Science in the Suds** 

**Second Edition** 

**ROGER BARTH, PhD** 

## WILEY

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## **PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION**

Whether you are a serious brewer or a person who is just interested in beer, the more you know about the scientific basis of beer, its preparation, and its flavors, the more you will appreciate and enjoy the depth and diversity of the world of beer. Although this book is written largely for the general reader, there is material that will be useful to brewers or people who are considering taking up brewing as homebrewers or as professionals.

Commercial brewing and homebrewing are discussed to help give context to the material, but this is not intended to be a complete textbook on brewing, several of which, including *Mastering Brewing Science* by biologist Dr. Matthew Farber and me, are mentioned in the chapter sources. Nonetheless, it will be very helpful to read this book before reading one of the brewing textbooks.

Much has happened since the first edition of *The Chemistry* of Beer: The Science in the Suds was published in 2013. The craft brewing industry was hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic at a time of increased competition and increasing demand for new products. Generational changes in the drinking public have brought several previously marginal products into the mainstream. These include low and noalcohol beer, flavored malt beverages, and hard seltzer. Many brewers have responded by adding some of these products to their line-up. The preparation of these and other beer-related products are discussed in a new chapter.

Other changes were introduced to make the book clearer and more appealing to readers, and to respond to helpful suggestions. These include full color throughout, expanded coverage of beer history, with particular attention to the role of beer in development of technology and the contributions of the brewing industry to science and technology. The chapters on packaging and beer stability and those on flavor and beer styles have been combined to highlight the chemistry. The chapter on homebrewing now includes a section on careers in brewing. The recipes have been removed, but many recipes are available in books referenced in the Sources and on the Web. Each chapter now begins with a brief overview and ends with chapter highlights.

Many readers will be college students, some of whom are in the process of developing attitudes and practices regarding the use of alcohol. Alcohol is what it is. It has enriched many lives and ruined many lives, making it much like every other aspect of the human experience. It should not be taken lightly. I hope this book will help its readers attain a thoughtful approach to alcohol. Those who are experiencing difficulties with alcohol or other psychoactive substances should seek assistance from college, pastoral, or health counselors.

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## **READING NOTES**

Several typographic conventions are used throughout this book to signal the level of the material or the availability of additional information.

The first mention of a word that is defined in the glossary is in **boldface** type.

Supplementary material that may be glossed over or skipped altogether, as the requirements of the reader dictate, are highlighted in shaded boxes.

Questions marked with a bullet (**■**) are advanced and may depend on supplementary material (in shaded boxes).

These conventions are intended to help you to focus on the main points, while keeping the book useful for those with a need or desire to know more.

Each chapter has references to some of the key primary and secondary literature. Each chapter has a set of questions intended to help you study the material. There is an extensive glossary and a full index to help you navigate the book.

Thank you for reading!

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The second edition of The Chemistry of Beer: The Science in the Suds is built on the first edition. Both editions were built on support and assistance from many friends and colleagues who greatly enhanced the quality of this book. I deeply appreciate their irreplaceable contributions. Donna Marie Zoccoli, David Barth, and Tom Simpson read the ever-changing copy, corrected errors, and provided cogent editorial suggestions. Marcy Barth and Naomi Hampson did most of the photography, including on-site and studio photos. All unattributed photographs are the work of Marcy. Zach Miller was kind enough to conduct me and my daughter, Naomi Hampson, through the non-public parts of the new Victory Brewing Company facility in Parkesburg, Pennsylvania, allowing Naomi to photograph the state-ofthe-art equipment. The West Chester University library gave outstanding service in locating and delivering books and journal articles, despite pandemic restrictions. Guy Hagner showed us around the splendid Susquehanna Brewing Company facility in Pittston, Pennsylvania when it was new. Joel Sprick gave us photo opportunities at Levante Brewing Company in West Chester, Pennsylvania. This small and very creative brewery gave me samples of outstanding fruit beers made with Philly Sour<sup>®</sup>, the selfsouring *Lachancea* yeast mentioned in Chapter 11.

Special acknowledgment goes to Marcy Barth, my wife of 37 years. The visual appeal of this book is due to her artistry and skilled work. In addition to camera work, she enhanced photos, staged studio scenes, and created artwork for many of the illustrations. She provided many sound editorial suggestions that greatly improved the book. Her constant support made this project possible.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**



Source: Roger Barth.

Roger Barth was born in New York City. He attended public schools in Levittown, Pennsylvania and received his bachelor's degree from La Salle College in Philadelphia. He was awarded a doctorate in Physical Chemistry at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. After working on development of car catalysts at UOP Inc. in Des Plaines, Illinois, he did postdoctoral work on surface and catalytic chemistry at University of Delaware and at Drexel University. He taught chemistry at West Chester University of Pennsylvania from 1985 until his retirement in 2021. He developed a course entitled The Chemistry of Beer, and he wrote this book to serve as its textbook. He is the author of scientific articles about beer brewing and brewing safety. He is the coauthor, with Dr. Matthew Farber, of *Mastering Brewing Science: Quality and Production,* a comprehensive textbook for brewing science degree and certificate programs.

Dr. Barth is an accomplished home brewer. He and his wife, Marcy, a graphic designer, and their two cats live in West Goshen, Pennsylvania. They have three grown children and three grandchildren.

## **ABOUT THE COMPANION WEBSITE**

This book is accompanied by a companion website:

https://www.wiley.com/go/Barth/beer

The website includes:

Answers