The Moscow Mule cocktail is traditionally served in a copper mug. Given the acidic nature of the drink there is increasing concern that copper can leach into the cocktail. This month’s cover article, “Quantifying the Rate Copper Leaches From a Copper Drinking Vessel Into Simulated Beverages Under Conditions of Consumer Use,” explored the rate, total amount, and mechanism of copper leaching from a copper mug into a Moscow Mule cocktail. The rate of copper leaching into the Moscow Mule cocktail was found to be significant and the accumulated copper concentration exceeded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards for drinking water. Risks posed by the accumulation of copper can be mitigated by serving this cocktail in copper mugs lined with stainless steel to avoid contact of the acidic liquid with the copper surface.

See page 8.
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ADVANCEMENT OF THE SCIENCE

Quantifying the Rate Copper Leaches From a Copper Drinking Vessel Into Simulated Beverages Under Conditions of Consumer Use

Health Effects and Factors Affecting Formaldehyde Exposure Among Students in a Cadaver Laboratory

ADVANCEMENT OF THE PRACTICE

Understanding Public Health Worker Beliefs About Radon Gas Exposure

Direct From CDC/Environmental Health Services: Water Management Programs Are Key to Managing Legionella Growth and Spread

ADVANCEMENT OF THE PRACTITIONER

EH Calendar

JEH Quiz #4

YOUR ASSOCIATION

President’s Message: The Challenges Just Keep Coming

Special Listing

NEHA 2022 AEC

NEHA News

DirecTalk: Golden Trevally

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See page 8.
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