

December
2015 Update

Update
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Iowa State
University
Extension
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Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute

Helping support the state's evolving grape and wine industry because the potential economic opportunities in wineries, value-added agriculture and tourism are limitless.

Jefferson Cup Invitational Wine Competition

The Jefferson Cup Invitational wine competition celebrated its sixteenth year on November 19-20, 2015 in Kansas City, MO as the only competition honoring the best among wineries



Dr. Murli Dharmadakari judges wine at the Jefferson Cup Invitational in Kansas City, MO.

from all of America's wine regions. The invitation only competition donated the remaining wines to an annual event benefiting children and adults in need and raised more than \$90,000 for Angel Flight Central.

This year 733 wines from 24 states were entered in wine competition and 55 wines from sixteen states were awarded the prestigious Jefferson Cup award.

Dr. Murli Dharmadakari was one of the 17 judges invited for this event.

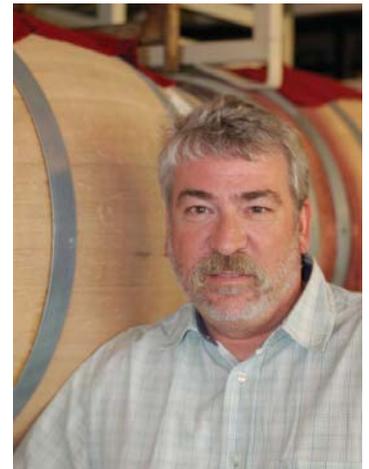
"I look forward to playing a role in serving the midwest wine industry."

-Lani McKinney,
Administrative
Specialist at the
Midwest Grape
and Wine Industry
Institute

New Hires

Drew Horton, Field Specialist - Enology

Drew Horton joined the Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute (MGWII) in July of 2015. He joins us from a year spent serving as Interim Research Winemaker at the University of Minnesota's Horticulture Research Station, where he conducted lab analysis and research winemaking on numerous lots of single hybrid vines. He was wholly responsible for vinifying micro-lots of wines from new and as yet un-named varietal crosses as well as experimental lots of Marquette, Frontenac and La Crescent. He conducted lab-analysis and compared the effects of various strains of malic-converting yeasts in the search for more and better ways to manage the high acidity of many of the new cold climate hybrid wine grapes.



Drew Horton, Enology Field Specialist

Prior to that, Drew spent over three years as founding winemaker for Chankaska Creek Winery near Mankato, MN, where he produced multiple gold medal and best-of-class Minnesota grown wines over the course of three vintages. Having been raised in California, Drew entered the wine industry in the Santa Barbara County area, where he climbed the ranks from salesman to tasting room manager, to lab technician, bottling



Drew Horton assists winemaker Anne Zwick from Soldier Creek Winery prepare and fill some new wine barrels.

supervisor, cellar master and assistant winemaker, and finally winemaker. His first commercial wine, a 2005 Bordeaux blend, won a gold medal at the Orange County Fair, a competition known for having only gold medal award-winning wine makers as judges.

Since starting with the Institute in July 2015, Drew has visited with about a quarter of producing wineries in Iowa, and his goal is to visit every Iowa winery by June 2016. Drew has extensive practical experience in virtually every aspect of the wine industry from production to sales, marketing, promotion and education. He has experience with both small and very large producers, and stands ready to make recommendations and give

advice on production equipment, processing, the use of barrels, and interesting fermentation techniques including skin-contact, cold-soak, and various filtration methods and techniques.

Lani McKinney, Administrative Specialist

Lani McKinney joined the Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute (MGWII) on November 2, 2015. She took the position vacated by Tammi Martin earlier this year. She comes to MGWII from the Value Added Agriculture Program office where she worked largely with the national and Iowa Annie's Project - Education for Farm Women program since 2009. On November 1, 2015, the national activities were transferred to the newly established Annie's Project - Education for Farm Women 501(c)3. Prior to staying at home with her two young sons in 2006, she worked for the Food Science and Human Nutrition program beginning in 2000 and she welcomes the opportunity to join the department again (bringing six additional years of experience in Extension and Outreach) in her new capacity as Administrative Specialist for the the Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute.

Advisory Board Meeting

On November 5, 2015, the Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute held an Advisory Board meeting at InterPower in Ames, Iowa to discuss the current status and future directions of the institute under the direction of Dr. Murli Dharmadakari. Dr. Murli Dharmadakari gave an update from the institute. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Viticulture Field Specialist Mike White gave an update on things from the Extension and Outreach horticulture field. Nicole Eilers gave an update from the Iowa Wine Growers Association (IWGA) as IWGA's Director of Marketing, and new Midwest and Grape Wine Industry Institute employees were introduced to the board members in attendance.

IQWI Sensory Panel

On November 11, 2015, the Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute held an Iowa Quality Wine Consortium Sensory Panel to evaluate some wine samples sent to the institute by midwest wine growers. Five panelists were available to serve on a sensory panel for the five wines sampled.



Five panelists participated in an IQWI Sensory Panel at the beginning of November.

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You can find other information about Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute on our website:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/wine/>



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