April Updates
2013

Institute Staff
Murli Dharmadhikari
Director
Tammi Martin
Office Manager
Stephanie Groves
Research Associate
Jennie Savits
Research Associate
Justin Weibel
Research Winemaker
Mike White
Field Specialist-Viticulture

Research, Quality, Training
The Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute was formed as a result of the state’s evolving grape & wine industry.

Goals of the Institute include:
- Conduct research to evaluate cold-hardy grape varieties that can thrive in the Midwest
- Conduct enology research
- Assist with implementation of the Iowa Quality Wine Consortium (IQWC) program - a quality-assurance stamp of approval
- Establish an outreach program to the industry by training a team of specialists
- Partner with community colleges to develop job training programs specific to growing grapes and making wine

Research
- La Crescent Varietal Research
  - Four panel sessions were conducted
- Northern Grapes Project
- Somchai Rice completes survey as part of Jennie’s La Crescent sensory panel

Outreach
- Fifteen people took advantage of the Intensive Tasting Proficiency Training weekend workshop
- Justin visited wineries by request to provide winemaking guidance and advice
- Tasting workshop participants test their aroma identification skills

Helping support the state’s evolving grape and wine industry, because the potential economic opportunities in wineries, value-added agriculture and tourism are limitless.
IQWC program support to Iowa Wine Growers Association

- Investigated a web-based database which will allow the Institute to better manage and organize IQ related information
- 18 Samples underwent laboratory analysis
- A sensory panel was conducted to assess submissions that passed laboratory testing
- Murli and Jennie met with retail representatives at a Santa Maria Winery event to discuss the IQ program

Lab activities

- Stephanie began the implementation of a new service; on-site sanitation reviews with microbial testing
- Chemical analysis services continued

Personnel

- Annual performance reviews were conducted for all staff members.

Reviews are required as a basis for determining pay increases assuming that funding is renewed for the Institute and enough funds are available. Since there is no guaranteed funding for the Institute (each year the appropriations must be approved via the State of Iowa budget)

MGWII staff are restricted to 1-year term appointments.

Expanding our knowledge

- Tammi and Stephanie traveled to California
  - Attended UC Davis Extension 2-day course on Sensory Evaluation of Wine by John Beuchsenstein
  - Visited Scott Labs in Petaluma
  - Met with representatives of Lallemand
  - Visited Napa Valley College
  - Toured Domaine Chandon
  - Toured the Culinary Institute of America at Greystone

- Tammi, accompanied by Cassie Bott of Fireside Winery (and IWGA V.P./Marketing rep.), traveled to Ohio for the annual License to Steal conference.

Coming up...

An Introduction to Wine Microorganisms: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly. Tuesday, June 11th, 2013 8 am - 4 pm. Details and link to registration HERE