

Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute

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

Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute

Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition

2312 Food Sciences Building

Ames, IA 50011

Phone: (515) 294-3308

Fax: (515) 294-4362

www.extension.iastate.edu/wine

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

Research



Somchai Rice completes survey as part of Jennie's La Crescent sensory panel

- La Crescent Varietal Research
 - Four panel sessions were conducted
- [Northern Grapes Project](#)

Outreach



Tasting workshop participants test their aroma identification skills

- Fifteen people took advantage of the Intensive Tasting Proficiency Training weekend workshop
- Justin visited wineries by request to provide winemaking guidance and advice

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



Corrine (L) and Stephanie (R) discuss the best lab equipment for the job at Scott Labs in Petaluma.

- 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](#)

... and justice for all

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.