

July
2017 Update

Update
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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.

Intensive Tasting Proficiency Training - July 20, 2017



MGWII Education and Outreach Coordinator Erin Norton poses with a bottle of Iowa wine in the vineyards at the ISU Horticulture Research Station northeast of Ames.

Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute (MGWII) staff will hold the second Intensive Tasting Proficiency Training of 2017 on July 20th. Education and Outreach Coordinator Erin Norton was recently featured in Inside Iowa State for her work to educate consumers on how to critically evaluate wine as well as introduce them to Iowa wines - www.inside.iastate.edu/article/2017/07/06/winetasting. Future courses will be at www.aep.iastate.edu/wine so keep checking back for updates to classes and online registration. The course introduces participants to wine faults and aromas as well as common wine varieties by region, including wine varieties unique to Iowa.

...if I can help solve a problem or connect an industry member to information they need, then it's a good day."

- Jennie Savits,
MGWII Field
Specialist -
Enology

Apprenticeship Online Courses Set to Launch

Four lessons have been created by Midwest Grape and Wine Industry (MGWII) staff to create the first online course for Iowa Wine Growers Association (IWGA) apprentices. The online course entitled *Wine 101* features lessons on *A Year in the Winery*, *Cold-Hardy Hybrids*, *Fermentation Basics*, and *Yeast and Winemaking*. The registered apprenticeship program administered by the IWGA and Iowa Division of Labor is the first of its kind in the U.S. MGWII is developing 185 hours of online courses. There are currently five apprentices enrolled in the program. One of the apprentices is shared by two wineries. Online courses will be available for purchase through the ISU Extension and Outreach online store on July 18th.



MGWII Research Associate Maureen Moroney works with Doug Bakker of Madison County Winery and his apprentice, Joe Johannsen, at a SO₂ workshop at Soldier Creek Winery in April 2017.

Somchai Rice Research Published

Assistant Scientist Somchai Rice's aroma work research was recently published in the open publication, *Separations*. The article "Development of an automated method for aroma analysis of red wines from cold-hardy grapes using simultaneous solid-phase microextraction – gas chromatography – mass spectrometry – olfactometry" can be viewed at <http://www.mdpi.com/2297-8739/4/3/24/pdf>. Congratulations, Somchai!



Assistant Scientist
Somchai Rice

Jennie Savits Returns to the Institute at the Beginning of 2017

An Iowa native, Jennie Savits has returned to the Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute (MGWII) staff as a Field Specialist with an enology focus. She, her husband, Paul, and two children, Beau (4) and Alice (2), live on a farm outside of Ogden, Iowa where they also run a cow/calf and row crop operation. "No grapes... yet," Jennie says.



MGWII Field Specialist - Enology Jennie Savits working with La Crescent wine as a research associate at the MGWII in 2014.

Mastering the art of winemaking is not lost on Jennie, who received her master's degree from Iowa State University (ISU) in 2014. She became interested in the science of winemaking while studying food science at ISU. Her first work with the institute was in 2007-09 when she worked as a undergraduate lab assistant for Dr. Murli Dharmadhikari in the service laboratory. Subsequent winemaking harvest internship experiences transformed her interest into a career choice. From 2010-15, she joined the MGWII as a research associate managing the service laboratory and assisting with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach (ISUEO) programming. While she doesn't have a favorite wine per se, Jennie admits, "I think I will always be a bit partial to La Crescent. I spent many hours and years working with it as my

master's research project." She took a brief hiatus from her work at the institute when she worked for ISU's Food Science and Human Nutrition department teaching their laboratory courses. While she enjoyed working with the students, she missed the enology and viticulture content. "I also realized how much I truly appreciated the extension model of sharing research based information to industry members," says Jennie, "If the research isn't shared and practically applied, what's the point?"

Working with growers and producers is a highlight. Since starting in her position in February, Jennie has visited ten wineries, made contact with almost 30, and is looking forward to more visits. "I am continually impressed by the commitment of the industry to keep improving the quality of wines and experimenting with different styles to find what works," Jennie says, "There are so many inventive and entrepreneurial folks in the state and greater region meeting the challenges of growing grapes and making wines in really cool ways." As she sees it, the



MGWII Field Specialist - Enology Jennie Savits talks with Josh Ellenberg on her first winery visit to The Cellar in February.

challenge in winemaking is keeping sound science at the root of decision making. "Wine is a complicated matrix. There's always something new to learn or think about." There is still quite a bit of trial and error required for midwest winemakers. Challenges range from deciding what grapes to grow for making good wine to figuring out what are the best wine styles for the varieties they produce. Other challenges include climate and grape chemistry challenges in wine production.

Jennie is a proponent of being a life long learner and sharing information and experiences with industry peers. In June, she traveled with Mike White, Field Specialist - Viticulture, to Wisconsin to judge approximately 50 wines for the Wisconsin State Fair. It was her first official judging experience. "We can learn a lot of each other," says Jennie, "If I can help solve a problem or connect an industry member to information they need, then it's been a good day."



MGWII Field Specialist - Enology Jennie Savits introduces a speaker at the Iowa Wine Growers Association Conference in February.



MGWII Field Specialist - Enology Jennie Savits was invited to judge wines for the Wisconsin State Fair in June.

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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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