

## Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute

December Updates  
2014

### Institute Staff

#### Murli Dharmadhikari

Director and Extension Enologist

#### Tammi Martin

Office Manager

#### Paulina Biernacka

Assistant Scientist

#### Jennie Savits

Research Associate

#### 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) - a quality-assurance stamp of approval program
- 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

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

### Institute Visitors



#### **The Institute was pleased to host Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, some of his key staff, Iowa Wine Growers Association representatives and associated ISU administrators (Dec. 11).**

(L-R) Sharman & Bob Wersen – Tassel Ridge Winery, Mike Vincent – Wooden Wheel Vineyards, Dr. John Lawrence – Associate Dean & Director of Ag & Natural Resources Extension & Outreach, Dr. Cathan Kress – VP ISU Extension & Outreach, Bill Northey, Dr. William Brown – Timber Hill Oak Savanna & past president of IWGA, Dr. Murli Dharmadhikari – Director of the Midwest Grape & Wine Industry Institute, Mike Bevins – IDALS State Horticulturist, Wayne Peterson – IDALS Urban Conservationist and Michael Naig – Iowa Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.



*Murli explains some instrument features to Secretary Northey during a tour of the wine labs.*

### Lab activities

- 10 lab samples were submitted for analysis from 7 different wineries, including one out-of-state winery.

### Research

#### Northern Grapes Project (NGP)

- Berry samples from NE 1020 plots continue to arrive for sugar and acid profile analysis.
- La Crescent skin contact trial wines have been racked a final time before bottling which will take place in January.



*Paulina filling vials with La Crescent samples that have received varying enzyme additions. These will be analysed for differences in aroma characteristics using the Herucles electronic nose.*

### IQWC program support



- Beginning with March 2015 submissions, the IQWC process will be completed online! If you would like to have a sneak peek or practice using the system, please contact [Tammi](#) for access.
- Preparations are also being made for electronic entry of sensory analysis data. Panel members will soon be using Chrome Books in the booths to enter their scores and comments. This will greatly assist with the expedition of reports to wineries.
- Institute staff are participating in discussions and meetings on IQ program enhancements that can best serve the Iowa winegrower community.

### Outreach



*(L-R) Paulina Biernacka-MGWII, Ashley Grave-ISU student, Jennie Savits-MGWII, Doug and Brenda Grave-Victorian Vineyard, tour the wine lab.*

- Doug Grave, President of the Western Iowa Grape Growers association also stopped in for a

visit. Doug and Brenda Graves working with Chemical Engineering students to develop plans for grape-seed oil processing equipment. Mike White and Murli were class consultants. The Graves' daughter, Ashley, is a sophomore in Biology at ISU.

### Coming up...

- VESTA meeting and Unified Symposium in Sacramento, CA. Jan. 23-30.
- IWGA Day at the Capital, Feb. 17
- IWGA Annual Conference and Meeting, Feb. 27-28
- March 5-7, Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Forum and Trade Show
- March 17-19, Northern Grapes Project PAC Meeting & Symposium, and Eastern Wine Exposition
- Next advisory board meeting TBD – March/April, 2015