

Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute

February-March
Updates
2015

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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

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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.

Research

Northern Grapes Project (NGP)

- Stakeholders, researchers, and associates from across the cold climate region came together in Syracuse, NY for the 2015 Northern Grapes Project Symposium in conjunction with the Eastern Winery Exposition. Updates were given, progress strategies set, and collaborations reinvigorated as we progress toward the grant's conclusion.
- Obj 4d. Nearly 30 industry members representing 12 different states have engaged in the development of a regional cold climate wine quality assurance program. Discussions will lead to development of guidelines, benchmark trials, and feasibility assessment.



Murli presented research findings at the Northern Grapes Symposium in Syracuse



While in NY, the ISU team took the opportunity to tour wine research facilities at Cornell University.

Staff



Jennie shows new student lab assistant, Sadie (Left) around the wine lab.

- Sadie Schultz, a Chemistry major with a growing interest in enology, will take over for our current lab assistant, Annie Nguyen, who will be graduating in May.



Welcome Alice Savits!

- Congratulations to Jennie and the growing Savits family! Baby Alice (8 lbs., 10.5 oz., 21.5 in.) was born on March 12. All are happy and healthy.
- Applicants for the new Enology Field Specialist/Winemaker position are under consideration. We hope to have an announcement in time for April Updates.

Lab activities

- Jennie will return from family leave at the beginning of June. In the meantime, Paulina will work with our wonderful student lab assistants Annie, Danielle, and Sadie, to cover your diagnostic analysis needs.
- In February, 10 lab samples were submitted for analysis from 6 different wineries (4 based in Iowa and 2 from out-of-state). In March 16 lab samples were submitted for analysis from 8 different wineries (7 based in Iowa and 1 from out-of-state).

IQWC program support

- Be sure you renewed your Iowa Quality Wine Consortium membership along with your 2015 Iowa Wine Growers Association membership. Take advantage of all your [benefits](#) throughout the year.
- Thanks to those of you who have registered your winery on the new online system! Your comments about how easy it is to use were encouraging. Remember that all new submissions need to be originated by the winery online at <http://apps.wine.iastate.edu>. Be sure to call if you have questions or suggestions.
- 5 out of 7 samples submitted last month received IQWC certifications.

Expanding our knowledge

- February 12, Jennie, Paulina, and Tammi participated in the ISU P&S Council Professional Development Conference 2015: Discover Your Treasure. A full day of networking

and educational activities were offered.

- A grant writing workshop was offered to ISU employees on March 11. Paulina attended to pick up some pointers for MGWII.

Outreach

- On Feb. 17, Murli, Tammi, and Jennie joined IWGA members for Wine Day at the Capitol. We provided a display and shared information with State legislators as well as other visitors to the capitol that day.



Connie Vincent, Wooden Wheel Winery; Brittany Blunk, Fireside Winery; Diane Larson, Snus Hill Winery; and Jennie Savits, MGWII on the capitol rotunda.

- At the Iowa Wine Growers Association Annual Conference this year, Tammi and Jennie provided information about the new IQWC database at the MGWII display table and Murli and Paulina gave presentations on research and enology topics.

One session included a tasting of the Northern Grapes Project La Crescent skin contact study research wine. Each attendee was given three samples. These included a control and two other wines produced using skin contact at ambient and cooler temperatures for 24 hrs.

Attendees were asked to rank the wines based on their preference.

The results were as follows:

1. 43% of attendees preferred the control wine
2. 33% preferred the wine that received skin contact at 50 °F for 24 hours
3. 24% preferred wine with skin contact at the warmer ambient temperature for 24 hours

The experimental wine will be subjected to sensory evaluation by a panel in the coming summer. The wines will also be analyzed for the chemical aroma constituents. The data will be subjected to statistical analysis at a later date, and compared with the data from chemical and sensory analysis.

Overall, the conference was another great opportunity to network with our industry partners and other professionals in the field. We also received an award this year. The Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute is the proud recipient of the IWGA Outstanding Industry Partner award!



IWGA President, Mike Pence, presents the Outstanding Industry Partner award to Murli at the IWGA 2015 annual conference.

Coming up...

- The next MGWII advisory board meeting is being held on Thursday, April 16.
- Murli will be participating in the Washington State University Southern France Winery and Vineyard Tour April 19-May 1.
- ISU Commencement ceremonies will be held May 8-9.

- When University of Nebraska Lincoln announced that “Famed enologist, Dr. Murli Dharmadhikari, will headline the wine and winemaking part of the 18th Annual Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Forum and Trade Show, March 5-7, 2015 at the Omaha Marriott” it made Murli blush. But it also helped make for a successful turnout of about 100 people. Both Tammi and Murli traveled to Omaha for the 3 day event where Murli led 5 various enology discussions.



Murli presenting at the Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Forum

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... and justice for all

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