

Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute

January Updates
2014

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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](#)
 - Sugar & acid profiles of cold hardy varieties from NE1020 plots continues.
 - Still waiting for the Farm Bill to determine the fate of additional years funding for the Northern Grapes Project.
- Drs. Dharmadhikari and Gleason will be participating in a small grant funded research project, "Cold plasma treatment to improve wine quality: Phase I". This project will be funded by Manufaktura Bonifratrow, a Polish company run by Brothers Hospitallers of St. John of God, a worldwide Catholic religious institute dedicated to the care of the poor sick and those

suffering from mental disorders. Cold plasma is a novel concept that is being currently investigated (for example) in context of food processing as an antimicrobial treatment. Limited and not well documented studies of related technologies claim aroma/flavor effects on wines.

Outreach

- The Iowa Wine Growers Association legislative committee had a successful Ag Senate hearing on January 23 where they presented information in favor of increased and sustained funding for MGWII as well as the establishment of a commercial/teaching winery

facility. They are scheduled to move forward with another hearing on February 4 when they will present to the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Ag & DNR.

- Stephanie and Jennie have spent some time in the field visiting wineries and conducting sanitation surveys. If you haven't signed up yet, it's not too late. The sanitation service will be free to Iowa wineries until the end of March.

IQWC program support



- As we begin the New Year, be sure to renew your participation in IQ when you renew your IWGA membership! There are many benefits:
 - Make your certified wines stand out in the competitive marketplace
 - Provide reassurance to customers so they will buy and serve your wine with confidence
 - Includes submission of 5 wines each membership year and the privilege to submit additional labels
 - Receive valuable feedback on all of your submitted wines
 - Receive 50% off most Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute (MGWII) laboratory services
 - Receive early notification of MGWII workshops and events
 - Send two members of your organization to MGWII tasting

proficiency training for free! (*space available*)

- Promote building the reputation and distinct styles that represent the Iowa growing region
- Be a part of the success in building a strong, sustainable grape and wine industry in Iowa
- Show your commitment to producing Iowa Quality Wine!

- If you would like to experiment with the new online database program before it is formally implemented, please contact Tammi. Your feedback is most welcome!

Lab activities

- Chemical analysis services continue as usual
- A few small batches of research wines are in process
- There's still time to sign up with Steph for a free sanitation survey!

Expanding our knowledge



When Mike White (L) connected with Sidney Sutton (R) the result was a donation of over 400 wine related books to what we are dubbing our new MGWII library!

- Please remember that The Midwest Grape & Wine Industry Institute has approved funding to update the wine industry's economic impact figures. In the

coming days, representatives of Frank Rimerman + Co. LLP will be sending you a survey in order for us to gather the information needed to formulate this study. Please be on the lookout for this survey, fill it out and return to Frank Rimerman as soon as possible.

As you already know, the economic impact study is an important tool for the industry in order to let key decision makers know just how important Iowa's grape and wine industries are to the state's economy. Your input is valuable, so please take a few minutes to complete the survey.

Coming up...

- Murli is out of the country on vacation and will return to the office at the end of February.
- Jennie and Stephanie will be learning more about evaluating wine flavor through chemical and sensory analyses by attending the ASEV Symposium Honoring Dr. Ann C. Noble in Sacramento, CA, January 31.
- Hope to see you all at the 2014 IWGA Annual Conference March 7 & 8 in West Des Moines! Be sure to attend presentations by Murli, Mike, Steph, Jennie, and look for our display table.

Back issues of monthly Updates are available on our website: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/wine/content/institute-updates>

... and justice for all

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