

Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute

September 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 (NGP)

- Even though we're still awaiting the official grant award renewal announcement, the grapes have been harvested and work has begun!



Unloading lugs of La Crescent – these grapes are a NGP matching funds donation from Tassel Ridge Winery.



Destemming La Crescent grapes for skin contact trials



Racking the lots into three control groups



NGP La Crescent skin contact trial fermentations, pictured are the 3 treatment lots each with 3 replicates. From left to right 24 hr ambient temperature skin contact (3), 24hr 45°F skin contact (3), and control group with no skin contact (3).

- Harvest samples were collected at the Horticulture Research Station for continued NGP data collection of sugars and acids contents in La Crescent, Frontenac Gris, Marquette, St. Croix, and Frontenac. Samples of these varieties are collected by several participating states that have the NE1020 viticulture blocks. Samples are sent to the wine lab and analyzed by HPLC.



Digital Density Meter

- The new portable density meter (above) is being used to monitor the brix of our research wine batches throughout fermentation. It saves time and only requires a small sample.

- Fireside Winery generously donated La Crescent juice in support of studies that Paulina is conducting regarding the influence of enzymes addition on enhancing wine flavor by releasing bonded terpenes.

Lab activities

- The wine lab received 22 sample submissions for various analyses.
- Meet Hercules (below) – our recent state of the art addition to the research lab. This “electronic nose” will greatly expand our aroma and flavor research capabilities.



Hercules II e-nose



Yixuan Sun of Alpha MOS installed the new e-nose equipment and provided training to Paulina, Jennie, and Murlie.

IQWC program support

- Thirteen samples were submitted and analyzed in August resulting in ten quality certifications.

Outreach

- Murlie, Mike and Emily Saveraid, Iowa Wine Growers Association Marketing Director, provided an exhibit at the Western Iowa Wine

Festival at River Park in Council Bluffs Sept. 27th. In addition to a booth highlighting MGWII and IWGA assistance programs, Mike and Emily served as masters of ceremony for the grape stomp, a highlight of the festival. The 2000+ people who attended the festival enjoyed wines of western Iowa, food, and music in a pretty outdoor setting.



Western Iowa Wine Festival Grape Stomp

- Murlie and Mike visited John Scanlan at Bella Terre near Glenwood Iowa, to review his business plan for starting a winery. Bella Terre has a vineyard and Tuscan style building which serve their successful wedding business. The winery would complement the existing business and increase wine tourism in western Iowa.

Staff

- Happy Birthday to us. MGWII turned seven on September 26. On the same day, our 500th wine lab report was sent out to a client!



Diana Cochran

- Join us in welcoming Dr. Diana Cochran to Iowa State University! Diana is the new Assistant Professor in the Department of Horticulture. Her focus is fruit crop production and management as well as wine grape science. Mike has been introducing Diana to many of our Iowa vineyards so some of you may have already met her. We look forward to partnering with Dr. Cochran on the advancement of wine grape research.

Coming up...

- Murli will be out of the office October 13-23 participating in Ron and Linda Mark's Spain and Portugal wine tour.
- Tammi will be attending the Iowa Tourism Conference October 22-24.

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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