



THE MBAA Communicator

News of the Master Brewers Association of the Americas

District Midwest Fall Meeting Recap

District Midwest held their fall 2014 meeting at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) at Ohio State University, in Wooster, Ohio. The event was held on Saturday, October 11, 2014. The subject was all...things...HOPS!! By design the meeting took place near one of the sites of Ohio State University's ongoing efforts in growing experimental hops. OSU's goal is to educate growers and bring hop production back to Ohio to serve our district's growing number of craft brewers.

Upon arrival, meeting attendees enjoyed a lunch with a bevy of newly available beers, all created and provided by attendee-brewers. The business meeting included the awarding of the newly resurrected District Midwest Scholarship to Chris Davison, the head brewer at Wolf's Ridge Brewing in Columbus, Ohio. Chris has a seat secured at the MBAA 2015 Brewing and Malting Science Course. District President Jeremy Roza then moved the membership through the nomination of a new slate of District Midwest officers.



The program's first speaker was OSU's own Chelsea Smith. Chelsea provided an overview of Ohio State's hop growing efforts. She covered the origin of OSU's hop cultivation and growing methods. She also provide an in-depth look at OARDC' challenges, including mildew, mite, and aphid concerns.



Next, speakers Roy Johnson, District Midwest president 1995–2006, and Tim Kostelecky, both from John I. Haas, Inc., provided an in-depth overview of hop selection techniques. Their hands-on approach spoke to the numerous craft brewers in attendance. Topics included the use of the senses for field technique and recognition of flaws from mildews, aphids, and mites.



Mike Sutton, from S. S. Steiner and former MBAA president, provided insights into the recent hop harvest. Addressing the needs of attendees in an increasingly competitive



environment, Mike provided valuable tips in securing the hops of choice for the growing number of craft brewers.

Finally, District Midwest Vice President Andy Tveekrem shared stunning photos and videos from his recent trip to Germany that included visits to some of the age-old hop fields during the German hop harvest.