



photo by Brent Isenberger

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## 2011 Seasonal Issues in the Vineyard

### Free Summer Online Sessions from DMACC

The Des Moines Area Community College's (DMACC) Horticulture and Viticulture Department hosted bi-monthly online viticulture presentations on [www.wiziq.com](http://www.wiziq.com) last year. DMACC is interested in using the program again this year, but would like more interaction from the attendees.

Last year sessions were offered at 9:00 p.m. CT on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, beginning in late May and ending in August. DMACC is considering following the same pattern this year.

Participants from multiple states attend these sessions and DMACC would like to allow more interaction for attendees. Currently DMACC is looking for grape growers from various regions who are willing to provide information as to what

is happening in their region, send photos or questions about what is occurring in their vineyard/area, or update the group on some small projects taking place in their vineyards.

Increasing interaction is key to continuously improving these sessions. If there are individuals interested in actively participating and providing information in these sessions, please contact Randall Vos at [rivos@dmacc.edu](mailto:rivos@dmacc.edu) or 515.965.7310. Randall is trying to get a core group of more active participants put together.

If you want more information on last year's sessions, or for links to last year's sessions, please go to:

<https://go.dmacc.edu/programs/viticulture/blog/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=72>.

## Iowa Wine and Beer Launches App

Finding Iowa wineries and breweries just got easier with the launch of the free Iowa Wine and Beer App available for Apple products.

An enhanced version of the popular print directory, the app includes listings for all 100 wineries and breweries, maps, amenities and photos. The map feature allows users to see which location is closest to them and get directions.

"The wine and beer industry continues to expand in Iowa. We've added seven wineries and another brewery over last year's version of the directory," said Colleen Murphy of the Iowa Wine and Beer Promotion Board. "There are at

least half a dozen more ready to open in the next year. This new app is a great way to get the information in the hands of consumers as they are traveling Iowa."

The app is available for free from the Apple App Store. The traditional Iowa Wine and Beer Directory is available at any Iowa Welcome Center, at any of the included wineries or breweries, or for order online at:

[www.iowawineandbeer.com](http://www.iowawineandbeer.com).

An events calendar and detailed listings for each winery and brewery can also be found on the Iowa Wine and Beer website.

## Change in IWGA Officers

The Iowa Wine Growers Association recently changed officers on the Board of Directors. Mike Pence, Heartland Harvest Winery, will now serve as the organization's President. Diane Larson, SNUS Hill Vineyard & Winery, was selected to serve as Vice President.

Committee Chairs were also appointed during the last IWGA Board of Directors meeting. Your committee chairs are the following:

• **Convention:** Jeff Quint, Cedar Ridge Vineyards

- **Education:** Kevin Smith, Middle River Vineyard
- **Government:** Ron Mark, Summerset Winery
- **Marketing:** Dave Cushman Jr., Park Farm Winery
- **Membership:** Diane Larson, SNUS Hill Vineyard & Winery
- **Resolution:** John Guinan, Villa Santa Maria Winery.

If you are interested in serving on an IWGA committee, please call the office at 515.262.8323.

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## Congress's Sour Grapes

*The Wall Street Journal*, April 27, 2011, <http://online.wsj.com>

Congress specializes in giving nice names to bad bills, and the latest is the Community Alcohol Regulatory Effectiveness (Care) Act. This purports to give states and communities more authority to regulate alcohol. In fact, its purpose is to prevent out-of-state wine producers from selling directly to consumers around the country.

The federal government and states have been in a tug-of-war over alcohol regulation since the 21st Amendment passed in 1933. That amendment gave states the right to decide whether to go wet or stay dry. But the Supreme Court in 2005 came down decisively in favor of the feds in *Granholm v. Heald*. The Court struck down laws in New York and Michigan allowing in-state wineries to ship directly to consumers while forbidding out-of-state wineries from doing the same. The Court ruled that while the 21st amendment gives states the authority to regulate alcohol within their borders, the Constitution's Commerce Clause bars them from erecting such protectionist barriers.

Many states have nonetheless tried to circumvent the Court's decision. Massachusetts in 2006 created a law allowing out-of-state and in-state wineries to ship to consumers but only if the wineries produced less than 30,000 gallons per year. Not coincidentally, that production cap covered 100% of Bay State wineries but only 2% of out-of-state producers.

Since the U.S. doesn't have an equivalent to the World Trade Organization to intercede between states in trade disputes, the only recourse against discriminatory policies are federal courts. Since *Granholm*, the courts have corked protectionist legislation in Massachusetts and about a half dozen other states.

Enter the Care Act, which would strip alcohol businesses of their Commerce Clause protections and thus eliminate their ability to

sue states in federal court. The bill does this in the same way that the McCarran-Ferguson Act of 1945 ceded Congressional authority to the states to regulate insurance.

You can bet your favorite case of California cabernet that Care will reduce choices and raise prices for consumers, just as McCarran-Ferguson has done in the insurance market. From what we've gathered through the grape vine, the main groups backing this bill are alcohol wholesalers. They serve as the middlemen in over 90% of transactions between wineries and retailers, and they account for up to 25% of the price of every bottle of wine. Wholesalers have convinced 57 Members of Congress, including 28 Republicans, to co-sponsor Care. Last year 153 Members, including 94 Democrats and 59 Republicans, co-sponsored a similar bill.

The wholesalers and their friends in Congress argue that Care promotes state sovereignty and limits Congressional abuse of the Commerce Clause. We might remind them that the original purpose of that clause was to stop states from enacting protectionist laws. The very reason James Madison called the Constitutional Convention was to eliminate interstate trade barriers that were balkanizing the union.

It's hard to imagine Congress giving states the authority to prohibit Amazon or any other online retailer from shipping its products directly to consumers. Yet that's exactly what they're trying to do with wine. Sounds to us like a case of sour grapes that deserves to be stomped.

This article can be found at: [http://online.wsj.com/article\\_email/SB1000142405274870452920457625677357185868-1MyQjAxMTAxMDIwNzEyNDcyWj.html](http://online.wsj.com/article_email/SB1000142405274870452920457625677357185868-1MyQjAxMTAxMDIwNzEyNDcyWj.html).

### Fundamentals of Wine Chemistry 2-day workshop



**Clark Smith's** popular "Fundamentals of Wine Chemistry" short course at UC Davis has received rave reviews from over 3,000 winemaking professionals over its 25 year run. Winemaker, founder of the wine technology firm Vinovation, and adjunct Professor at CSU Fresno; Clark writes "The Postmodern Winemaker," a monthly column for *Wines and Vines* magazine and directs the Best-of-Appellation panel for *AppellationAmerica.com*.

*Smith teaches at Napa Valley College, UC Davis extension, and CSU Fresno, where he has a reputation for making complex concepts accessible."*

- David Darlington, *Wine and Spirits Magazine*

- Who:** For winemaking professionals *at all levels*
- What:** Fundamentals of Wine Chemistry 2 day workshop, informal tasting and comments on your own wines as time permits, plus session on pairing wine with music
- When:** Tue-Wed, June 7-8, 2011 (9am-5pm)
- Where:** 1951 Food Sciences Building, Iowa State University, Ames, IA
- Why:** Sponsor is providing a substantially reduced cost for all participants. Take advantage and register early. Space is limited. Registration by June 3 required.
- How:** Click below or go to [www.extension.iastate.edu/Wine/Events.htm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Wine/Events.htm) for registration and information
- Sponsor:** Midwest Grape & Wine Industry Institute, Iowa State University, Extension

Details and Registration:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Wine/Events.htm>

## Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Detected in Iowa

Written by: Laura Jesse, Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic & Erin Hodgson, Department of Entomology

The brown marmorated stink bug, (BMSB), *Halyomorpha halys*, is a serious plant pest and household invader that has been making its way around the United States for the past decade. Recently Iowa State University Extension Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic (ISU-PIDC) and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship confirmed that a single dead specimen of BMSB, was collected this February in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This is the first confirmation of this pest in Iowa. However it is not known if this find indicates an established population or an isolated individual as BMSB travels readily in shipping containers and with people.



The brown marmorated stink bug submitted to the PIDC in 2011. This single dead insect was collected this February in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The striped antennae, abdominal stripes and pale underside are characteristic of this insect. Photos by Donald Lewis.

### Damage to crops

BMSB have been recorded causing economic damage to plants as far back as 2002 in Pennsylvania (where they were first detected), but in 2010 severe damage to fruit and vegetable crops were reported in the northeast. This insect has a wide host range that includes field crops like soybeans and corn, fruits and vegetables -- including apples, grapes, peaches-- and also ornamental trees and shrubs. New plant hosts will continue to be recorded as we learn more about this insect.

At this point, we do not fully understand the economic importance of BMSB in Iowa. For a complete host list (pp.30-33) and detailed information on BMSB see the USDA Risk Analysis.

BMSB feeds by puncturing plant tissues (leaves, fruits, stems) and sucking on plant juices with its beak, similar to aphids or leafhoppers. Damage can range from mild to severe and may appear as deformation, distortion, speckling, stunting, etc.

Two native stink bugs, the brown stink bug and the spined soldier bug, also occur in fields and gardens, and appear similar to BMSB. The spined soldier bug is a beneficial predator and the brown stink bug feeds on plants and is an occasional pest in Iowa.



The brown stink bug (left) and spined soldier bug (right) are similar to the BMSB but have more pointed 'shoulders' and lack the antennal stripes and clearly visible stripes on the abdomen.

### Household pest

If the BMSB behaves in Iowa as it has in other states then homeowners will be the first to note its presence as it is a fall accidental invader. Homeowners on the East Coast describe the stink bug invasion as worse than boxelder bugs and lady beetles, combined. Two other similar insects can also overwinter in homes – the boxelder bug and the pine seed bug. However both of these insects do not have the rounded shield shaped body of the BMSB.

It is this habit of spending the winter in buildings that has aided the dispersal of BMSB by movement in containers and vehicles. If you have observed any insects similar to the BMSB in your house this winter please submit a sample (at no charge) or send a digital photo to the ISU-PIDC. It is only through these reports that we can determine if we have a breeding population of these stink bugs in Iowa and where they are located.

### Submitting insect samples

For information on submitting a sample to The ISU PIDC has instructions for submitting insect samples to the clinic and an information page on the brown marmorated stink bug.

### General Biology

The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is an invasive insect that was recently discovered in North America. It was first identified in fall 2001 in Allentown, PA; though it is suspected it was on the east coast as far back as 1996. It was accidentally introduced, probably via shipping containers from Asia (no one brought it here on purpose).

BMSB spends the winter in the adult stage hiding in houses and other protected locations. In May the adults leave the hiding sites to feed on sap from plants. After mating, the females lay eggs in clusters of about 28 eggs on the undersides of leaves from June to August. A single female can lay up to 400 eggs. Eggs hatch into wingless immature bugs called nymphs that feed and grow for about five weeks before reaching the adult stage in late summer. We don't know how many generations per year are likely to occur in Iowa.