

FESTIVAL: Beer-lovers enjoyed — and learned about — fresh hops

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to vote for their favorite brewery, with the People’s Choice Best Fresh Hop Beer contest. At the end of the festival whatever brewery has the most votes wins the impressive Golden Bunny Award

Three Creeks Brewing Co. has a passion for fresh-hop beers, and head brewer Zach Beckwith was excited about their second year of hosting the event.

“We are trying to improve the festival to make it even more of a brewer-friendly event. An event that people will mark on their calendar every year,” Beckwith said. “We are curating the beer list a little more this year, trying to reach some independent breweries and self-distributed breweries, not just big breweries.”

Three Creeks’ Hop Wrangler Fresh Hop Red featured freshly harvested Amarillo Hops from Crosby Hop Farm in Woodburn. Crosby Hop Farm educated the public on hops.

Account manager for Crosby Hop Farm Elizabeth Anderson and her dog Porter were set up outside the big tent with a variety of fresh hops for sampling.

“We have a variety of hop samples so people can smell the different hops and connect more with where beer comes from and what hops are beyond just, like, knowing that you like an IPA beer,” Anderson said. “We are educating the public about the characteristics of the different varieties of hops and how it affects the beer people are drinking. We want to tell

them about all the factors that go into this awesome beverage that brings communities together.”

Fresh-hop beers give brewers the chance to work with an ingredient in its most natural state, resulting in unique flavors and aromas compared to beers made with hops that have been dried and stored.

Connie Rodriguez from Redmond knows just why she loves fresh-hop beer.

“The beers truly do taste different using fresh hops — more aromatic depending on the brewing technique,” Rodriguez said.

Bridge 99 Brewery in Bend, represented by Trevor Hawman, had a fresh-hop IPA on tap for sampling.

“These hops came from Tumalo Hop Company and were picked at 8 a.m. this morning, and we had them by 9 a.m., so our beer is really fresh,” Hawman said.

Folks were on line ready to savor hop water, a brand-new non-alcoholic sparkling libation made from hops. Dave Glick, a retired science teacher from Sisters School District introduced Oregon Hop Springs, a non-alcoholic beverage manufacturing



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Participants sampled fresh hop beers from some 26 brewers during the Sisters Fresh Hop Festival.

company, to hundreds of beer lovers at the festival.

“My son works all over Southeast Asia, and my wife, Cindy, and I went to visit him in Japan and he told us about hop water. We tried it and liked it and thought it would go over really good in the Pacific Northwest,” Glick said.

Glick and his partner, Alex Gholson, a chemist and beer brewer, took the idea of hop water, experimented with hop combinations and different brewing techniques to create this unique sparkling drink.

HARVEST FAIR: Event is an annual seasonal celebration in Sisters

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of handmade artisan goods and delicious food. The annual Harvest Faire features free music with The Anvil Blasters on Saturday and Bill Keale on Sunday.

“The Sisters Harvest Faire is a great place to find all of those one-of-a-kind handmade items that aren’t available in stores, and it’s the perfect reason to visit Sisters,” said Jeri Buckmann, events director for the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce. “Meander at your own pace through our charming downtown. Visit the shops. Enjoy delicious snacks or a meal. Come spend the weekend and experience all that Sisters is about.”

For more information on the Sisters Harvest Faire, visit www.sisterscountry.com or call the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce at 541-549-0251.

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