

AT THE COAST?

Tickets are available through the Seaside Chamber of Commerce by calling 503-738-6391 or by visiting www.pouringatthecoast.com

Continued from Pg. 8

Seaside Three Course Challenge meet in September, the Brewer's Dinner is the program's largest fundraising activity.

Additionally, the dinner serves as the final exam for second-semester students. As the second semester ends March 11, Holen has "to bring them back for a couple of days and take them out of their other classes" to pull off the dinner.

"I give them an incomplete until after the beer dinner," he said. "That's their final exam. And it's about executing it and following through and showing up on time and showing up, period. That's what the lesson is about."

In general, he believes in giving the students practical assignments to improve their work ethic and give them marketable skills in the local hospitality market.

A love of craft beer

During the festival, tasters can vote on their favorite beer. At the end, the brewery with the most votes will win the People's Choice Award and a trophy — or rather, a surfboard the brewery can display and bring back the following year. The reigning champion is Wild Ride Brewing of Redmond.

The Oregon Coast Homebrewer's Competition also is a highlight of Pouring at the Coast. The competition is open to all home brewers, at least 21 years old, from across the country. They

can submit — either through drop-off or mail-in — one exhibit in each category. The entries are judged March 18 and the morning of March 19 according to the 2015 edition of the Beer Judge Certification Program style guidelines. Winners are announced at the end of the festival.

The festival has evolved since its early days, when it featured about 10 breweries from the local area. However, while the venue has changed and the number of participants grown, the culture surrounding the festival has remained, Griffin said. In general, people want to collectively celebrate and appreciate an array of fine craft brews in a single location, rather than party and get wild.

"Culturally, it has remained a tasting festival. People are going because they are fascinated with and have a love for craft beer," Griffin said. "It provides a really unique opportunity for people who wouldn't otherwise be exposed to these beers to have access to them."

Besides, he added, who doesn't want to attend a beer fest at the beach? And because the event takes place indoors, weather is not an issue.

"Whether it's pouring at the coast or not, Pouring at the Coast still goes on," Griffin said.

The festival is sponsored by Fred Meyer, Ohana Media Group and Seaside Brewery. The Brewer's Dinner is sponsored by Teevin & Fischer Quarry, and Sysco donates food.



Photo by Katherine Lacaze

Each of the five courses of the Oregon Coast Brewer's Dinner will be paired with a craft beer.

