

Music and Nightlife

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Thursday, July 23, 2009

Cheers

Summer Beer Festival focuses on local brew

Melody Baetens / The Detroit News

July is Michigan Craft Beer Month, and to celebrate the Michigan Brewers Guild will host the [Summer Beer Festival](#) on Friday and Saturday at Riverside Park in Ypsilanti. The annual festival is 12 years old this year, and features more than 300 beers all brewed in Michigan by our 50-plus microbreweries and brewpubs.

"I think it's a great opportunity for brewers and people who love beer to get together," says Duncan Williams, head brewer of Grizzly Peak Brewing Co. in Ann Arbor, which has participated in the festival since the beginning. He says people from all over the state [travel](#) to the Summer Beer Festival as they did for the sold-out Winter Beer Festival in February. This year, the guild expects more than 8,000 people to attend over two days.

"They can try beer from all over," Williams adds. "It's like one-stop shopping."

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Some other breweries represented include Bastone, Big Rock Chop House, Atwater, Arcadia, Hideout, Dark Horse, New Holland, Motor City Brewing Works and Woodward Avenue Brewers.

Organizers also are making an effort to be more environmentally friendly this year, with recycling bins and biodegradable cups and plates. They also plan to take food scraps to a local pig farmer for feed instead of throwing them away.

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More information

Beer and wine events

Passport to Wines of the World with Curtis Granderson at Big Rock Chop House, 7 tonight. This event features more than 300 wines from around the world and benefits the Grand Kids Foundation. \$85-\$135. 245 S. Eaton St., Birmingham. (248) 647-7774.

Meet the Brewers at Aubree's, 7-9 tonight. Talk with Frog Island Brewery's Dave French and Ray Sherwood from Sherwood Brewing Co. Followed by live music. 36 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti. (734) 483-1870.

Special Release Bar Crawl starting at Arbor Brewing Company, 7 tonight. 114 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. (734) 213-1393.

Festival Afterglow at Aubree's, 9:30 p.m. Fri. Talk with brewers and enjoy specialty brews from New Holland Brewery. 36 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti. (734) 483-1870.

Brew-Ha-Ha at Fort Street Brewery, 1-8 p.m. Aug. 1. Thirteen beers on tap, brewing demos and beer-related cuisine. 1660 Fort St., Lincoln Park. (313) 389-9620.

Vintage Ohio Wine Festival at Lake Metroparks Farmpark, 1 p.m. Aug. 7-8. More than 30,000 people are expected to attend this festival featuring wine, food, a 5K run and live music. \$22 in advance, \$25 at the gate. 8800 Chardon Road, Kirtland, Ohio. (800) 227-6972.

Wine & Food Festival at Meadow Brook Music Festival, 1 p.m. Aug. 29. \$18 in advance, \$25 day of. \$10 for designated drivers. \$5 kids 12-17. Tickets