



HOP RESEARCH COUNCIL

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December 29, 2017

I would like to start this inaugural Presidents Corner by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Year's. I am sure the new year will bring opportunity and prosperity to all the members of the council.

With that, I would like to personally welcome Bryan and Judy Thoet onto the council as our new technical directors. Having worked with them to integrate the position into the council over the last few months, I am very confident that they will help to move the council forward in a professional, productive manner. They have already started to work with the researchers, refine the budgeting process, develop processes to clarify goals and improve communication with the members. I am convinced the council will benefit greatly from their years of technical experience and professional management skills.

The last year has also been an exciting one on the research front. Starting with addition of Dr. Scott Harper as the head of the Clean Plant center. Dr. Harper will bring a new set of eyes to hop virology and help move us to the next level. The retirement of Dr. Jim Barbour is also a change to the hop research world. Dr. Barbour has been a steadfast friend of the industry for many years acting as the go to entomologist for the Idaho hop growers as well as the rest of the industry. The industry will miss Dr. Barbour, but benefit from his service to our industry for years to come. I would also like to thank Dr. Boydston for efforts in Hop research. I am sure his retirement will allow him to pursue great new opportunities.

The most exciting change to the public research world in hops has come in the form of new funding for the public breeding program. As many of you know the Brewers Association has stepped in and provided base funding for the program. This funding will kick start the program in all the growing regions. New personnel in Washington will work with Dr. John Henning in Corvallis - they will also reach out to the newer growing regions around the country. This is a very exciting time for Hop Breeding.

In fact, this is a very exciting time for Hop Research in general. I am sure that the Hop Research Council will help facilitate exciting research moving ahead. I am confident that the industry will continue to pull together and face all the challenges mother nature throws at us.

I wish everyone the best.

Fred Geschwill