

## **Bay de Noc Brewers are masters at their craft**

ESCANABA – A unique feature of this year’s Big Ole’s Pioneer Days festival is a homebrew competition as well as several brewing demonstrations, featuring members of the Bay de Noc Brewers.

While there will be no taste-testing, a variety of different styles of beer will be brewed on-site, including a colonial porter brewed over open flame. Among awards given will be a “People’s Choice” award, with tasting done by celebrity judges and major sponsors of the festival. The “Best of Show” winner will have their name engraved on an axe, which will be displayed at Hereford & Hops in Escanaba. The brews will be judged based on color, quality, and – of course – flavor.

The Bay de Noc Brewers Association was formed in 2008 by a group of local brewers and individuals with an interest in brewing.

“We wanted to create an official group of people who wanted to learn more about brewing,” recalls Josh Marenger, secretary of the organization whose 35 members include individuals from across the Upper Peninsula and northern Wisconsin. Members vary in their involvement and skill levels.

“We have some people who’ve been brewing for years and won multiple awards, then some who have an interest but have never tried it,” said Marenger, noting that for those who haven’t tried it, the process can be “as easy or as hard as you want it to be – from boiling water to an almost all-day process.”

For more information about the brewing or the Bay de Noc Brewers, visit their website at [www.baydenocbrewers.org](http://www.baydenocbrewers.org) and stop by their tent at the Big Ole’s Pioneer Days Festival on June 26-27!