



# Official Newsletter of Forest City Brewers January Edition

Next Meeting will be held at Prairie Street Brewing Company

Wednesday, February 7th, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

**HOW TO CONTACT FOREST CITY BREWERS**

**Homepage: [Forest City Brewers](#)**

**[forestcitybrewers@gmail.com](mailto:forestcitybrewers@gmail.com)**

**Facebook: [Forest City Brewers](#)**

## Forest City Brewers

Welcome to the Forest City Brewers!!  
If you're interested in learning about homebrewing for the first time or already have years of brewing experience – this is a great club to apart of.

## Brewer of the Year

Mark Davis is the 2023 Style Table Brewer of the Year.

Lesley Davis is the 2023 Open Table Brewer of the Year.

This year each brewer will receive custom FCB brewer's shirts.

## Upcoming Competition Styles

February – 24A Witbier  
ABV 4.5% - 5.5%

March – 34A Commercial Beer (clone)  
Pig Minds Vanilla Bitch Slap  
ABV 6.0% - 8.5%

\*Please remember to preregister your beers to earn points for the Brewer of the Year contest by registering your beer thru the Forest City Brewers web page.

<https://forestcitybrewers.us/index.php/pre-register/>

## Monthly Style Table Competition

### January Style Table – Biere de Garde

Lesley Davis takes first place in this month's Style competition. Joe Coldwater placed second.

### January Open Table

Ben Barr placed in first in this month's Open competition with a Caramel/vanilla cream ale. Dave Benson takes second place with his Imperial coconut cream pie cream ale. Third place was a three-way tie between Joe Coldwater (American stout), Mark Davis (Holiday Lager) and Scott Walker (Marzen). Honorable mentions go to Ken Wallyn, Russ Madeen, and Josh Bent.

### Current Point Standings

<https://forestcitybrewers.us/index.php/contest-points/>

**NOTE:** For the "BEST" beer put the right chip into the right color bag.

OPEN Table = Red Chip

STYLE Table = White Chip

Link: 2021 BJCP Style Guidelines

## Off-Flavor Sensory Class



The club will be holding an off flavor sensory class on February 10th, 12:30pm – 2:30pm, at [Pig Minds Brewing Company](#).

The cost is \$10 per member, \$20 per non-member (Get your membership renewed!)

Sign-up on FCB Home Page

[Beer Sensory Class – Off Flavors – Forest City Brewers](#)

## January Meeting Minutes

President, Scott Walker, started off the meeting welcoming everyone. 2024 memberships are available, let's get our 2024 memberships paid-up. Currently there are 40 paid members.

Winter Holiday Party was held at Pig Minds and was a great time had by all. Great beer share and great company!!

Tasters Guild will be at Urban Forest in January, Victory Pickleball in February and Ogle County Brewing in March. All these are on the FCB website calendar, Check the FCB website or Facebook for any last-minute additions to the schedule.

Some members have volunteered and will be representing the FCB club at the Homebrew Alley Beerfest in Fond du Lac, WI. On Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you for all your support!

It was discussed to have a member's wine tasting table in April to showcase some of our members other hobbies. Farmhouse Supply is donating a wine kit to the best tasting wine on the table.

FCB will be doing a clothing order for 2024, more information to follow.

### 2024 Club Events Mark Your Calendars

The following is an outline of *tentatively* scheduled upcoming events, taking into account peoples schedules, space availability and bus/Brewery availability.

The Barrel Aged Sensory class for off-flavors in beer is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup>.

The FCB spring 2024 bus trip is scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup> and will be heading to Chicago to go brewery hopping "Malt Row". Malt Row consists of Begle Brewing, Cultivate by Forbidden Root, Demo Brewing, Dovetail Brewery, Half Acre, Hop Butcher for the World, Is/Was Brewing, LaGrow Organic Beer, Spiteful Brewing, KOVAL Distillery and Vin312 Winery.

You can also order apparel and merchandise; Merchandise store is live on the website:

<https://www.cafepress.com/forestcitybrewers>



## TASTERS GUILD

The Tasters Guild for December was held at Old Chicago Pizza and Taproom, on Wednesday Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>. It is located at 6280 E State St Unit A, Rockford, IL 61108. Thanks to everyone that made this a great night to gather, share some beers and share some great stories. Prost!



The Tasters Guild for January will be held at Urban Forest, on Wednesday Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm - 9pm. It is located at 6551 E Riverside Blvd Suite #112, Rockford, IL 61114.

This month Tasters guild will include a special tapping of a milk stout. Back in October of 2023 Urban Forest and FCB had a Brewer's Invitational Beer Competition, where brewer's provided samples and the Alex and Heath voted on the Brewer's Champion and People's Choice Champion. Mike Bohn won Brewer's Champion and Lesley Davis won People's Choice Champion. Well Lesley Davis brewed her recipe with Alex in November and will be on tap for this Tasters Guild. Brave the below zero temperatures and raise a glass!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### UPCOMING TASTERS GUILD

January Tasters Guild will be at Urban Forest on  
January 17th 6:30 – 9 pm.

### UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

#### **Sensory Analysis – Off Flavors**

A workshop of commonly found off flavors in beer

When: February 10th, 2024

Where: Pig Minds Brewing

4080 Steele Dr., Machesney Park, IL 61115

Sign-up on FCB homepage.

#### **10th Anniversary Celebration of Homebrew Alley**

When: Saturday, February 3rd, 2024

Where: Homebrew Alley Beerfest in Fond du Lac, WI.

#### **Forest City Brewer's Spring Bus Trip**

Chicago, Malt Row – March 16th

## 2024 Beer Styles

FEB 24A Witbier

MAR 34A Clone Beer - Pig Minds Vanilla Bitch Slap

APR 3D Czech Dark Lager

MAY 21B Specialty IPA – Any sub category: Belgian,  
Black, Brown, Red, Rye, White, Brut

JUN 5B Kölsch - Premade Kit from Farmhouse  
Brewing Supply

JUL 10A Weissbier

AUG 7A Vienna Lager

SEP 19B California Common

OCT 26B Belgian Dubbel

NOV Brewer's Choice -Fall Inspired Beer/Mead/Cider

DEC 10% Challenge - Any style over 10%.

JAN 26C Belgian Tripel

#### **AHA / BJCP Sanctioned Competition Program**

Contact information is provided for potential entrants or  
volunteers, please follow this link;

[Competition Schedule \(bjcp.org\)](https://www.bjcp.org/competition-schedule)

## 2024 Brewer of the Year

**Brewer of the Year & The Style Table are back for 2024. Just to recap how the competitions work, every month, we'll have two different tasting tables, a Style Table, and an Open Table.**

**Style Table** – Every month, a different, predetermined BJCP style will be represented on the table. All beers on the style table are to be brewed as close to style as possible, based on the BJCP Guidelines. Voters should be extremely critical when placing a vote for a beer on this table. Even if the beer is extremely tasty, if it's out of style, it shouldn't get a vote. The style will be discussed briefly before the tasting, and if applicable, a classic, commercial example of the beer style will be shared with everybody in attendance to get them more familiar with the style.

**Open Table** – The Open table is anything that is NOT that month's style. All entries are still required to specify a BJCP style number. We encourage all voters to not only vote for the best beer on the table, but to vote for the best beer as it fits the indicated style.

The style of the month will be discussed before the tastings and we ask for a \$2 donation for the sampling session. The beers being sampled are supplied by club members and is set out on two tables, the Style Table and the Open Table. During the sampling session we vote on the best "to style" beer on each table and the winner receives a small award. Chips will be in the colored bags by 8:15 or the votes will not count. Officers of the club and stewards will refrain from comments, criticism, or observations about the available beers until 8:15 when the bags are collected. Everyone who submits a beer receives points based on how well they scored. Monthly scores are recorded and can be tracked throughout the year on the contest points section of our website. At the end of the year the points are tallied and a Brewer of the Year award is given to the winner of each table.

Beers for each table will be scored using the below scoring system.

1st place – 10 points

2nd place – 8 points

3rd place – 6 points

All other beers entered – 3 points.

Ties are scored slightly differently, and yes, we do give points just for participation.