

DINING

At Bo's Brewery, beer isn't blue collar anymore

BY CHRISTINA PUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Doug Young, vice president of Bo's Brewery and Bistro in Pontiac, and his executive chef Theodore Teeter are out to prove that beer isn't just a blue collar drink.

"He ties in the beer with the food like beer marinated sirloin and our beer chutney dressing," Young explained.

"We wanted to tie the two together to show people that beer can be like wine. You can pair different products with different foods. They do go hand in hand. It isn't just a blue collar drink either. It's a cocktail drink for everybody."

The sirloin and dressing are joined on the menu by beer brisquet of beef (\$9.95), Brewhouse burger (\$7.25), beer-basted fajitas (\$9.95), a cheddar ale served in a hollowed froth-baked bread bowl (\$4.95), and several dishes made with brewer's sausage (\$8.95-\$12.95).

"It takes on the flavors of the beer. It's not overpowering but it also helps tenderize it. The alcohol, the enzymes, the yeast and the beer itself actually help break down the meat a little bit and make it tender," Young said.

The extensive menu offers a wide variety of appetizers like

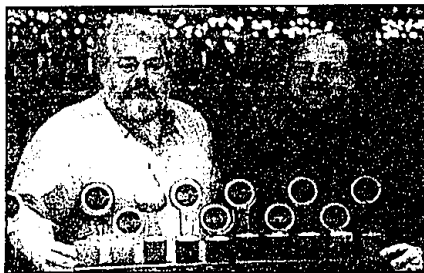


PHOTO BY BILL HANSEN

Beer connoisseurs: Burgess "Bo" Young and his sons . Doug (shown above with his father) and Burgess opened Bo's Brewery and Bistro in Pontiac in mid-August to show that beer isn't just a blue-collar drink.

Shark Stick and mozzarella sticks ranging from \$3.95-\$7.95; a raw bar, steamer and seafood with grilled shrimp skewers, oysters on a half shell, peel and eat shrimp, and smoked whitefish (\$6.95-\$13.95); and soups and salads (\$3.95-\$5.95).

Mexican food (\$5.95-\$9.95), sandwiches (\$5.50-\$7.25), pizzas (\$6.95-\$7.95), beef, pork and

chicken (\$8.95-\$14.95), fish (\$8.95-\$13.95), and pastas (\$8.95-\$12.95) round out the menu. A children's menu as well as coloring placemats, crayons, balloons and games are also available.

One of our signature items is our pizzas. They're made with our brewer's grain dough pizza. We use the same grains we use

in the beer in the dough. We just sell a ton of that. Our beer-marinated sirloin is very popular as are our smoked ribs. We smoke all our own in house," Young explained.

The plan was to offer "something for everyone," Young said.

"We're trying to make it comfortable for everybody's palate. It isn't a typical brewery. I wanted to do something that's a little more American-bistro style. Pontiac is an arts and entertainment-orientated city. We didn't want to project as much 18th Century Germany as it did 20th Century Pontiac. We wanted people to feel comfortable in our restaurant and feel that they're in some place a little bit different."

Bo's carries six different styles of its hand-crafted ales on tap. Bo's Blonde is golden-colored lightly hopped with a malty flavor. Whitelake Wheat is more carbonated than Bo's other beers. The copper-colored North 51 Pale Ale is aggressively hopped to produce high bitterness, flavor and aroma. Bald Mountain Nut Brown has a slightly sweet malt flavor with an aftertaste of roasted nuts. The restaurant also sells seasonal flavors. The Great Pumpkin Ale and chocolate raspberry moca

porter are past offerings.

To hone their beer-making skills, Young and his former head brewer attended the Siebel Institute in Chicago.

"We took various courses which cover beer formulation and quality control and what not, as well as home brewing. We both got started in the home brewing industry and said, 'Hey this is something we'd enjoy doing' and ventured on from there."

Bo's Brewery and Bistro - owned by Young, his father Burgess "Bo" Young who serves as president, and brother Burgess, a partner - opened Aug. 20 after nearly four years of planning. Young earned restaurant experience by working at the Unique Restaurant Corp., Fishbone's, TGI Friday's, ClubLand, Star of Detroit and as a bartender at Industry nightclub. Knowing the importance of customer satisfaction, Young put his staff through 60 hours of training.

"The servers are able to recommend dishes to people with food allergies. They know what every dish is made with. You can ask them what's in Mushroom Essence (an appetizer) and they'll be able to describe the mushrooms in it, the blue cheese

Bo's Brewery and Bistro

Where: Bo's Brewery and Bistro, 61 N. Saginaw (at Huron), Pontiac.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily. The kitchen is open until 1 a.m.

Credit: All major credit cards including Discover and Diner's Club.

Information: (810) 338-6200.

and the bacon that's in it, and how it's prepared instead of saying, 'It's great.'"

The atmosphere of Bo's is what sets his restaurant apart from others, Young said.

"There aren't a lot of micro-breweries around here. There's one in Royal Oak, one in Fraser, and Ann Arbor's got a couple. Customers are looking for a higher quality beer. They want to go out enjoy a meal, have a beer, and watch television. With all the big screen TVs (in here), there's a good seat no matter where you're sitting."

"You can go anywhere to watch the game. You can go anywhere to get some food, but you can't go anywhere to get hand-crafted ale to accompany those things."

RESTAURANT SPECIALS

Restaurant Specials features theme dinners, wine tastings, menu changes and other restaurant news. Send news leads to Keely Wygonik, Arts & Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (313) 591-7279.

NORMAN'S ETON'S STREET STATION
Norman's Eton Street Station, 245 S. Eton, Birmingham is temporarily closed for renovations. It will reopen in spring 1997. "We are looking forward to introducing our new look and new concept soon," said Norman LePage who owns the historic train station with his wife Bonnie.

RISTORANTE CAFE CORTINA
The restaurant is hosting "Breakfast with Bill Bonds" 6-9 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, 30715 W. 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, (810) 474-3033. The program airs on WXYT AM 1270.

EMILY'S
The restaurant at 505 N. Center, Northville, is presenting two wine dinners. Tuesday, Jan. 21 features Italian flavors and wines from L & L Wine World. On Feb. 5 Emily's and Winery

Associates will present a dinner featuring some of the best vineyards in California wine country. The wineries are Murphy-Goodie, Flora-Springs, Quivera, Dry Creek and Alexander Valley. Dave Ready, owner of Murphy-Goodie is the guest speaker. Call (810) 349-0505 for reservations/information.

WINE TASTING/SILENT AUCTION
The College of Arts, Sciences and Letters Alumni Affiliate at the University of Michigan, Dearborn is holding its second annual "Beat the Winter Blues" wine tasting and silent auction 7-10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Henry Ford Estate to fund an endowed alumni merit scholarship for outstanding students.

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Wines have been chosen for the event by the Merchant's Fine Warehouse in Dearborn. Representatives from leading vineyards will be available to answer questions. There will also be live jazz. The auction features items from Detroit-area merchants, sports teams and local artists.

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE
Make reservations to celebrate Valentine's Day at a dinner dance at Schoolcraft College, 18500 Haggerty Road (between Six and Seven Mile Road) Livonia, 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16. Tickets \$37.50 per person, call

(313) 462-4417.

Dinner - beef tenderloin, sweetheart salad and heart-shaped potato leek pie, begins at 7 p.m. Then dance the night away to the romantic strains of the Johnny Trudell Orchestra.

ZIA'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT
New restaurant specializing in southern Italian cooking, 12 Mile Road at Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Owned and operated by the same group that operated D. Dennison's Seafood Restaurant in the same location for 15 years. There's still a D. Dennison's in Laurel Park Plaza Six Mile road at 1-275 in Livonia.

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Dining & Dancing to "BLUES" every Thursday, Friday, & Saturday. In January Also... Bill Kahler - Men, Tue & Wed. Psychology - Men, Tue & Wed.

CORPORATION
Has entered into an agreement with the new ownership of Kingsley Hotel & Suite to operate its restaurants and catering operations. Unique Restaurant Corp. will be opening two new restaurants at The Kingsley. The first will be Deli Unique of Bloomfield Hills. It will be designed by Ron Rea and will have a deli-60s-style soda shop motif. The menu will be similar to the other Deli Uniques. The restaurant to post the actual bills of sale, with the day's shipping date prominently featured, in the lobby of each location for the clientele of each restaurant to see for themselves.

CHUCK MUEER'S SEAFOOD TAVERN
The sign board in the lobby at

Chuck Muer's Seafood Tavern, 5555 W. Maple Road (near Orchard Lake Road) in West Bloomfield tells the story. Executive Chef Jim Blake knows a lot about where to find the freshest fish for his seven area restaurants. Whether he buys from local distributors or flies in seafood delicacies from East and West Coast suppliers, he demands that the product meets high standards. The chef has instructed managers at each restaurant to post the actual bills of sale, with the day's shipping date prominently featured, in the lobby of each location for the clientele of each restaurant to see for themselves.

Kyoto JAPANESE STEAK AND SEAFOOD
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NIELSEN Symphony No. 4, ("Inextinguishable")

Thursday, January 23, 8:00pm
Friday, January 24, 8:00pm
Saturday, January 25, 8:30pm

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RACHMANINOFF Piano Concerto No. 3

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