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**Mark Schoppe Wins Top Award
at World’s Largest Beer Competition**

*American Homebrewers Association’s National*

*Homebrew Competition Sees 7,600+ Entries*

**AUSTIN • June <<Insert day>>, 2015** —Mark Schoppe of Austin, Texas, was presented the Ninkasi Award given to the brewer with the most points from winning entries in the 37th annual [American Homebrewers Association](http://www.homebrewersassociation.org) (AHA) [National Homebrew Competition](http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/pages/competitions/national-homebrew-competition/winners). The award was announced June 13 at the [AHA National Homebrewers Conference](http://www.ahaconference.org/) awards banquet held at the Town & Country Resort in San Diego.

Mark Schoppe claimed the Ninkasi Award with three medals. Schoppe earned gold, silver and bronze medals for his homebrewed Spice, Herb, or Vegetable Beer, Specialty Beer and Eisbock, respectively.

The 2015 National Homebrew Competition had a total 7,663 entries from 3,170 homebrewers located in all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Germany, Greece and Israel.

The first round took place at 12 regional sites across the country. The top three entries at each site in each of the 28 brew style categories advance to the final round of the competition, held every year at the AHA National Homebrewers Conference.

This year, the final round of judging took place June 11 at the AHA National Homebrewers Conference, where 946 entries were evaluated by some of the top beer judges in the country. Entrants win points toward the Ninkasi Award for every final round medal earned in the 23 beer categories, plus points for medals earned in the mead and cider categories.

“The American Homebrewers Association is excited to announce that Mark Schoppe is the winningest homebrewer in the competition and one of the best homebrewers in the world,” said Janis Gross, director, National Homebrew Competition. He earned the Ninkasi Award by beating out thousands of competitors in the National Homebrew Competition—the world’s largest and most prestigious homebrew competition—and that’s an extraordinary achievement.”

Insert quote from winner

The AHA National Homebrew Competition recognizes the most outstanding homemade beer, mead and cider being produced by homebrewers worldwide. Over its 37 year history, the National Homebrew Competition has evaluated 118,911 brews. The first competition, held in 1979 in Boulder, Colo., judged 34 beers.

A complete list of winners at the National Homebrew Competition can be found here:

<http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/competitions/national-homebrew-competition/winners/>

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