

Booze News

Side Dishes: "Nightfires," "Nipples" and Others

BY **SUZANNE PODHAIZER** [07.09.08] - 91 READS

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For the moment, folks who want to get their hands on **Sean Lawson's** "nipples" may have to travel. Like all the brews from Vermont's newest microbrewery, **Lawson's Finest Liquids** in Warren, the syrup-flavored "Maple Nipple" is a bit difficult to find. Currently, Lawson's creations are available at a few Mad River restaurants including **The Pitcher Inn** and **The Common Man** in Warren, **The Village Porch** in Rochester and **American Flatbread** in Waitsfield and on the

shelf at the **Warren Store**. Interested Chittenden County swiggers can find 'em at the VIP tent at the **Vermont Brewers Festival**, July 18-19.

Lawson, 38, works part-time as a naturalist at **Mad River Glen**. But he spends the rest of his time brewing small batches to sell under his new label, which he owns with his wife, Karen. "It was June of 2006 when I incorporated," he recalls. "I got all of my licenses and my federal brewer's notice last winter." His first beer went on sale this March.

The brewmeister has been making his own suds since he was an underage UVM student, when a friend helped him whip up a hoppy batch in Lawson's pad. Eventually, Lawson decided to turn his hobby into a business, in part because of "the encouragement I got from people, both friends and strangers," he says, adding that some folks say his beer is "the best they've ever had." He'd like to expand and open a pub, but "not in the near future."

"Making beer is actually a lot like cooking," Lawson suggests. "I tend not to follow a standard recipe. I approach it from the experimental or creative side, while still being informed by brewing traditions." In addition to the oh-so-Vermont-y maple beer, LFL offers India pale ales, a Hefeweizen and a blond ale. He's working on a lambic-like ale made with wild grapes. "Harvest or fruity nipple?"
