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Local brewer wins beer competition

A Key West resident recently won high honors at the Florida Brewers Guild Festival in Ybor City. Professional beer brewers from across the state competed for gold, silver and bronze awards.

Jim Brady of Bone Island Brewing was awarded a scholarship to attend the Siebel Institute, a prestigious brewing academy in Chicago.

Bone Island Brewing is located at the craft beer depot in The Restaurant Store, 1111 Eaton St., Key West. It is expected to hold a grand opening in May during American Craft Beer Week.

Brady has been brewing in Key West since 1994 and founded the local brew club, the Conch Republic BUBBAS (Brewers United Brewing Better Ales).

He is also the only certified cicerone, or beer sommelier, in Monroe County. Bone Island will eventually be competing in the Best Florida Beer Championships, the Great American Beer Festival and the World Beer Cup to bring the gold home to the Keys.

The guild presents the Siebel scholarship to the candidate who has "demonstrated the most potential and highest commitment to advancing Florida's craft beer industry," according to a press release.

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