

INTRODUCTION

During the weekend of August 13th some 48 IFEAT members from 20 countries arrived in San Antonio, Texas to participate in the 9th Annual IFEAT Study Tour. The delegates included many knowledgeable and experienced specialists from around the world who were more than happy to share their knowledge and experience during the Tour, which centred on three locations, namely Texas, the Pacific Northwest and the Midwest. These areas are suppliers of various essential oils and other flavour and fragrance ingredients to our industry.



Alan Brown giving a lecture on mint



Sealocks in-field distillation plant

2016 IFEAT

USA (TEXAS, PACIFIC NORTHWEST

The study tour had a number of objectives:

1. To gain an intimate knowledge of the production and processing facilities of a number of essential oils produced in these three US regions. Participants were able to witness the production and processing of a number of natural essential oil ingredients including mint oils, cedar wood oil and hops. In addition, visits were made to major flavour and fragrance companies.
2. To provide an opportunity for participants to meet up with producers, processors and exporters from the USA.
3. To enable participants to meet up with other flavour and fragrance industry people from a variety of countries.
4. The aim was to achieve these objectives in just over a week out of the office.



The Applications Laboratory at Callisons

TEXAS AND CEDAR WOOD

The first two days of the Tour were spent in Texas. On arrival delegates were able to tour San Antonio, the Riverwalk, The Alamo and some UNESCO World Heritage sites. The opening cocktails were sponsored by **Eucaforest Pty Ltd**, and this was followed by a Welcome Dinner.

The next day saw a visit to the cedar wood plantations and distillation facilities of **Texarome Inc.** The expanse of cedar wood forest and the sustainable practice of cultivation being practised were remarkable with vast stretches of hillsides covered with cedar trees. The Bouchard family, who own the company, were very open and showed cedar wood being collected and discussed the different qualities of wood and yields. Most interesting was the indigenously developed continuous steam distillation facilities for processing the wood. This was unique to most delegates as batch steam distillation is the norm in most of the natural essential oil industry. The detailed presentation and documents provided, especially on distillation techniques, were very much appreciated.

STUDY TOUR

AND MIDWEST), 13-21 AUGUST

PACIFIC NORTHWEST: MINT OILS, DISTILLERIES, FARMS AND COMPANY VISITS

On Sunday we flew out of San Antonio to the beautiful Pacific Northwest, where even in mid-summer we saw snow-capped peaks. Here we saw predominantly the growing and distillation of peppermint and spearmint oils.

Three major companies were visited: **Norwest Ingredients, Labbeemint** and **Callisons**, all family owned companies. The company visits were truly enlightening. All the delegates were impressed by the efficiency and high productivity achieved. In addition, the high level of expertise and professionalism meant that we benefitted immensely from this experience. Some showed their complete facilities for mint oil production, explaining their production, fractional distillation equipment, quality control, analytical services and flavour creation facilities etc. The visits invariably involved various members of the management and technical team accompanying groups of delegates explaining and clarifying every question. In addition, the companies shared a wealth of information in both video and booklet forms. This included detailed data on mint production, yields, climatic factors etc. In addition, odour sessions were held on the different varieties of peppermint and spearmint oils from different region of the USA and India. Delegates were able to identify the specific characteristics of the individual qualities.

In addition, there was a presentation by the **Mint Industry Research Council (MIRC)**. Its role was explained in assisting stakeholders (farmers, distillers and traders) overcome the various challenges being faced by the mint industry, including verticillium wilt.

A number of farms were visited, including **Shinn Family Farms, Phil Sealock's Farms, Green Acres Farms** and **Shady Lane Farms**. They grow mint, often along with a range of other products, including hops and fruits. Each farm acreage was huge,

while the farming practices, irrigation and distillation techniques were highly commendable. The farmers were proud of their facilities, food safety programmes and various accreditations.

The delegates soon recognised how very well organised is the American mint industry. Throughout the visit delegates often compared US mint operations with those of India and recognised that the Indian mint industry, as well as the essential oil industry in many other countries, could learn much from US practices.

MIDWEST - COMPANY VISITS

Two days were spent in visiting companies and a farm and distillation facility in the Midwest. Two IFEAT member companies were visited: **Kalsec Inc.** at Kalamazoo and **The Lebermuth Company** at South Bend. During the visit to Kalsec's impressive campus, a tour was made of their spice and hop extract facilities and laboratory and flavour creation facilities. At Lebermuth video presentations were made of the company's various operations followed by a tour of their relatively new facilities, the highlight of which was the new impressive Fricke Concordia automatic dosing machine.

SOME CONCLUSIONS

At the end of the Tour there was a series of very positive responses from the delegates – and the Tour more than achieved its objectives. Organisations visited put a lot of effort in providing detailed analysis of their production and processing operations. They provided detailed knowledge and data on the US mint oil and F&F ingredients sector and its innovative techniques throughout the supply chain. Delegates were able to meet up with very knowledgeable and diverse people from within our industry. The warm welcome, kindness and hospitality of our hosts was superb. Several companies sponsored wonderful meals and provided gifts and mementos of our visits. Participants were able to get to know other delegates and share their expertise.



IFEAT 2016
USA STUDY TOUR

TEXAS Pacific Northwest
& MIDWEST

SATURDAY 13TH TO
SUNDAY 21ST AUGUST

MANY THANKS TO:

The companies and farmers who made us so welcome and showed us their production and processing facilities. Also their hospitality and gifts were very much appreciated. The Local Study Tour Committee chaired by **Alan Brown** of Lebermuth who played such a vital role in the local organisation, Edgerton Travel Services and their Tour Manager, **Deni Worthen**, who helped make the trip so enjoyable. Many thanks also to the companies who sponsored meals and gifts ... Finally thanks should go to all the Tour participants, who made it such an enjoyable and educational experience.



Labbeemint olfactory testing

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The 2017 IFEAT Bulgaria Study Tour was fully booked within 24 hours of registration opening. Please see the IFEAT website for further information.

BULGARIA
28 MAY-2 JUNE 2017



Welcome 2016 IFEAT Study Tour Delegates!

LABBEEMINT

IFEAT 2016
USA STUDY TOUR

Harrah, WA