



Mark and Leslie Henderson are making history by bottling beer in Mississippi, the first since Prohibition.



Lazy Magnolia is brewed in Kiln, Mississippi.

can only be had in a single location. It is a powerful concept that really drives home our core belief that people want great beer. That is part of what I want for the brewery. I want people all over the South to think of us as their brewery—as something that belongs to them in a real and meaningful way.”

Truly worthy of a toast, the group has also made the world’s first pecan beer. “Mark wanted to try making a pecan beer, as pecans are so much a part of southern cuisine. I said it was a bad idea and tried to talk him out of it,” Leslie admits. “Oil destroys the head on a beer. We had to do

lots of experimentation to get just the right mix of malts and just the right yeast to handle the problem.” That experiment won Leslie and Mark a bronze medal at the 2006 World Beer Cup in the Specialty Beer category, and their Amberjaque brought home a bronze in the Rye Beer category.

In a state where many counties have staunch laws on imbibing and on brewing, there is always pressure. With consummate Southern grace, the group at Lazy Magnolia has met the state’s dichotomy of opinion on alcohol with a simple philosophy. “We are not political about it,” Leslie explains. “We didn’t start Lazy Magnolia to change the

laws. We worked within them to make great beer. We just want to continue to do that.”

Mark adds that the support and love they have received has been invaluable and that success is due to everyone involved. As I go through this,” he says, “I understand more now than ever that even the smartest man on the planet still relies on others for his daily activities. He doesn’t harvest the coffee beans; he doesn’t pick the vegetables; he doesn’t weave the cloth. But he does do his part. We all have our little piece of the puzzle.” DU

