Raichlen Smoky Beans

Equipment: Weber Smokey Mountain smoker; hickory wood

6 ounces bacon, cut into 1/4-inch slivers

1 large onion, finely chopped (about 2 cups)

3 cloves garlic, minced

2 - 15-ounce cans great northern or kidney beans, drained and rinsed in a colander



1 - 15-ounce can black beans, drained and rinsed in a colander

1/3 cup packed dark brown sugar, or to taste

1/4 cup molasses, or to taste

1/4 cup your favorite barbecue sauce

1/4 cup ketchup

2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce

1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

1 tablespoon dry mustard

2 tablespoons cider vinegar, or to taste

1/2 teaspoon liquid smoke

1/2 cup beer or water, or more as needed

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Step 1: In a heavy pot, cook the bacon over medium heat to render the fat, about 5 minutes. Discard all but 2 tablespoons fat.

Step 2: Add the onion and garlic and cook until the vegetables are soft, about 5 minutes. Stir in the beans, sugar, molasses, barbecue sauce, ketchup, worcestershire sauce, mustards, vinegar, and liquid smoke. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Step 3: Set up your smoker following the manufacturer's instructions and preheat to 225 degrees. Add the wood as specified by the manufacturer.

Step 4: Smoke the beans, uncovered, until thick and richly flavored, about 2 to 3 hours, stirring occasionally. (Add more beer or water as needed if beans seem too dry.)