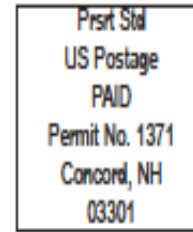


New Hampshire Maple Producers Assoc.
409 Loudon Ridge Road
Loudon, NH 03307
Return Service Requested



The Gathering Tank

Volume 17, Issue 3 December 2012



Robyn Pearl, Editor

A Newsletter of the New Hampshire Maple Producers Association, Inc.

IMPORTANT: ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE ENCLOSED

*Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy
New Year!*



*May your days be merry and bright,
And may some of your syrup be light...*

Come to the Annual Meeting !




The Annual Meeting of the NHMPA is scheduled for Saturday, January 19, 2013 at the Lodge of the Elks, Lebanon, NH. The meeting will start at 10am and will conclude around 3pm. Coffee and pastries will be offered prior to the meeting starting at 9am. A business meeting will be conducted to report on the status of the association and election of officers and board members. A review of the rule changes for the Carlisle Award will be given.

Our keynote speaker for this year will be Kathy Hopkins from the University of Maine Extension Agency. She will be speaking on "Identification of Fungal Contamination in Bottled Maple Syrup". We will also be hearing from Scott Bailey from the Hubbard Brook Research Foundation in Woodstock, NH. He will be discussing the effects of climate change on *Acer saccharum* (sugar maple).

A buffet lunch is available and selections must be reserved in advance. Please indicate your choice on the membership application on the last page of this newsletter and mail to Don Lassonde by January 11th.

After lunch, the Carlisle Award will be presented. A representative from each qualified sugar house **must** be in attendance in order to receive an award.

 The afternoon entertainment will be just that. We will be enjoying comedian Ken Sheldon as Fred Marple, hailing from Frost Heaves, NH. His show offers many laughs about the residents of his lost town, some of whom may sound vaguely like someone you know from your own. It will surely be an upbeat way to enjoy our afternoon.

The meeting will be closed after the door prize raffle. Vendors will be present with equipment and supplies. Join your fellow sugar makers for a great day of information, laughs and camaraderie.

18th Annual Maple Weekend Planned



The 2013 Maple weekend will be held on March 23 & 24. The decision was made to keep the event on the same weekend as it was last year despite the abrupt end of the 2012 season. Sugar makers made the most of the weekend by either boiling sap or water to ensure visitors would stop and enjoy what they had to offer. Over 120 sugar houses were open on Maple Weekend for the second year in a row. It would be great to have that same level of participation again this year. If you wish to participate, please fill out the form found on page 5.

The Promotion Committee is working on expanding public interest in sugar houses by creating "Maple Awareness Month". It will run from the last three weekends in March to the first weekend in April. It allows for focus to be placed more on the season and less on one weekend. Participation is optional. More information will be available at the Annual and Regional meetings.



Attend the Regional Meetings

The regional educational sessions have been scheduled for the following dates:

- Tues, Feb 5-** Intervale Farm Pancake House, Rte 114 & Flanders Rd, Henniker
- Thurs, Feb 7-** Stuart & John's Sugar House, Rtes 63 & 12, Westmoreland
- Tues, Feb 12 -** Mt Cube Farm, Gov Thomson Hwy, Orford
- Thurs, Feb 14-** Fish & Game Research Bldg, Rte 3, Lancaster

All meetings begin at 7pm. The discussion topics have yet to be finalized. Regional sessions are free and open to NHMPA members and non members alike. If you know someone that is starting into the industry and wants to learn more, please bring them along you.

President's Corner

A new year is almost here and many changes seem to be coming to the industry. Some of these are inside the sugar house but many more are outside. As a small producer, I myself am going to have to sit down and figure out when I am going to fit into these changes.

Your maple association is also changing. We currently have the minutes from the director's meetings posted on the website for members to view. The promotion chair and committee has also been filled after many years. I am pleasantly surprised to see the members that stepped up to help kick it off to a good start. There are also many more positions that have openings on the board and some seem to never have been filled. This year, there was even a maple school held here in NH with a turnout of over 100 sugar makers.

I am not going even to try to predict the weather for the 2013 season mostly because it will be just what it is. I have never had a bad year in the sugarhouse. It just seems that some years are better than others.

-Bodie Peters

Secretary's Notes

I am happy to report that our membership as of this writing is 420 members...10 more than last year. There are 4 more who have already paid for 2013. Past records show a potential for over 800 members! I would like to reiterate that 2013 dues should be paid before March 31 to be included in the annual subscription for the Maple Digest and not to miss a copy. You also have to be a member to buy association containers.

As Nominating Chair for NHMPA, I am always looking for interested members to be members of the board. If anybody would like to serve, or would consider being a committee member, please let me know. Many of us have been on for a long time and it may be time to move on and make room for new people. New members are encouraged to voice their interest. Your input and ideas are valued.

-Don Lassonde

Felker Award Applications



Do you know a student who is interested in the maple industry? Did you know that they could win an award for that interest? Every year, the Walter A. Felker Award is given to a young man or woman with the intent to promote and encourage an interest in the production and marketing of high quality maple products.

The award is named in honor of Walter A Felker, a former director of the Bureau of Markets at the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Felker was instrumental in the formation of the NHMPA in 1943 and was the association's secretary until his death in 1946.

This past year, Peter Somero of New Ipswich won the award. A copy of the report can be found on our website under the Awards tab.



The recipient of the award receives an engraved plaque to recognize their achievement as well as a \$100.00 cash prize. Applications can be obtained from Don Lassonde 456-6052 or donlass@aol.com or Robyn Pearl 225-3757 or nhmpa@aol.com. Details about the project are outlined on the application.

This is a great way to involve young members of our community in our long standing traditions.

Books Available for Maple Season Sales



NHMPA cookbooks, Maple Sugaring in NH, and Welcome to the Sugarhouse coloring books are available for members to buy and resell at their sugar house for the upcoming season.

Cookbooks can be purchased at a member price of \$7.00 each. Please email Robyn at nhmpa@aol.com or call her at (603)225-3757 to place your order. She will also have them and the history books available to purchase at the Annual Meeting.

Coloring books are also available. A total order of 20 cases needs to be placed to receive the discounted member price. If you are interested in carrying them or need to restock your supply, please contact Bodie at (603)616-9220 soon so he can have them available for you at the Annual Meeting.

Books are a great add on to sales for visitors of all ages. Pick some up today!



New Hampshire Maple Producers Association, Inc.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date _____ New Member? _____ Current Member? _____
 Avg. # of Gallons produced per year _____ Are you receiving the Maple Syrup Digest? Yes _____ No _____

ANNUAL DUES: \$20.00 (January 1st to December 31st)

Members are being asked to make a VOLUNTARY DONATION to the Promotion Committee Fund.

THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE ANNUAL DUES. A suggested donation schedule is the following:

1 to 999 taps \$5 _____ 2501 taps to 4000 taps \$20 _____
 1000 to 2500 taps \$10 _____ 4001 taps to 5500 taps \$30 _____ 5501+ taps \$40 _____

Please print or use a name & address label

Name _____

Sugar House Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Make checks payable to: NH Maple Producers Association (NHMPA)

Return to: NHMPA, Don Lassonde, Secretary, 402 Route 103 East, Warner, NH 03278-4418

Membership applications can also be submitted online at www.nhmapleproducers.com We have PayPal!

Note: If you wish to make a lunch reservation, they are **not** available online. Please mail the application.

Lunch Buffet for the Annual Meeting:

Please choose from the following: Chicken Cordon Bleu # _____ or Roast Beef # _____



With salad, potatoes, mixed vegetables, dessert and beverages.

Cost: \$14.95 each. Please make lunch reservations by January 11th.

(Lunch reservations are not required if you wish to attend the meeting only.)

Amount Enclosed: Annual dues \$20.00 Donation \$ _____ Lunch \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

How do you think the NHMPA can better serve its members? _____



New Hampshire Maple Producers Association, Inc.

Annual Meeting Agenda

When: January 19, 2013

Where: Lebanon Lodge of Elks, Heater Road, Lebanon, NH

Time: 9:00 -10:00 am - Coffee and Pastries

10:00 - 11:00 am - Business Meeting

Officers' Reports

Committee Reports

Old/New Business

NH Maple Museum Annual Meeting



11:00 – 11:30 am - Kathy Hopkins, University of Maine Extension Agent

Identification of Fungal Contamination in Bottled Maple Syrup

11:30 - 12 Noon - Scott Bailey, Hubbard Brook Research Foundation

Effects of Climate Change on *Acer saccharum* (sugar maple)

12 Noon - Buffet Lunch

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm - Carlisle Award presentation

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm - Fred Marple from Frost Heaves, NH

2:30pm - 3:00 pm - Door prizes and adjournment



DIRECTIONS TO ANNUAL MEETING: Take Exit 18 off I-89. Go north on Route 120 to the first traffic light. Turn right on to Heater Road. The Elks hall is on the left, a large red building. Our meeting is upstairs.



NHMPA Container Prices for 2013 Season

The Container Chairman in conjunction with Bacon Jug, Inc. have set the following prices which reflect a small increase due to rising manufacturing costs:

Size	Case Quantity	Cost	Individual
Gallon	24	\$ 51.00	\$ 2.22
1/2 Gallon	48	78.50	1.72
Quart	80	97.50	1.30
Pint	100	107.00	1.22
1/2 Pint	100	97.00	1.15
3.4 oz.	200	168.00	.95

Conrad Chapple Sr.
537 Meridan Hill Rd.
Columbia, NH 03590
(603) 922-3460

**D
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R
S**

Bill Eva
107 Longview Rd.
Hancock, NH 03449
603) 525-3666

Bascom Maple Farm
56 Sugar House Rd.
Alstead, NH 03602
(603) 835-6361

Fuller's Sugar House
267 Main Street
Lancaster, NH 03584
(603) 788-2719

Bill Cheney
56 Broomstick Lane
Campton, NH 03223
(603) 726-3829

Tomapo Farm
110 Storrs Hill Rd.
Lebanon, NH 03766
(603) 448-1145

Sunnyside Maples
1089 North Rte 106
Loudon, NH 03307
(603) 783-9961

Westwynde Farm
Rt. 171 317 Old Mtn Rd.
Moultonboro, NH 03254
(603) 476-5907

Volunteers Needed to Promote New Hampshire Maple

The Farm and Forest Expo will be held on February 7 & 8, 2013. Volunteers are needed to help at the NHMPA booth. This is an educational event that hosts approximately 3500 guests annually. The NHMPA booth serves maple syrup samples, sells maple milk (a perennial favorite), and educates the public on sugaring in New Hampshire.

Volunteers are needed to help set up the booth on Thursday, Feb 6, work at the booth both Friday and Saturday in 4-5 hour shifts, and take down the booth on Saturday after the event.



If you are able to work or need more info, please contact Hank Peterson 432-8427 and let him know when you can be there.



IMSI REPORT

The annual meeting of both the NAMSC and the IMSI was held in Groton, CT in October 2012. The meetings were well attended by about 300 sugar makers.

The NAMSC meeting discussed a number of subjects. The research fund is funded by a 1 cent per container sold contribution made by each member state's maple association. About \$38,000.00 was contributed to the fund last year. Of that, \$26,000.00 went to research projects. The NAMSC does not fund any project in its entirety, but instead provides seed money.

A number of committee reports were presented. Topics included the Maple Manual reporting the manual needs updating and the new grading system, updates on the grading standards, and the Maple Hall of Fame in Croghan, NY will have its meeting in May 2013. Log Cabin/Pinnacle Foods has recreated its label in response to labeling blended syrup as pure maple. The Food Safety Act was signed into law in January 2012 but indicating small producers may be exempt. More on this to come.

The IMSI meeting was very busy. The most interesting subject was the grading standards. We are waiting for approval from the Canadian government and the USDA. This means that the enactment time will not occur until the 2014 season. After we hear from the governments, we will be able to anticipate a transition time and will revise our Maple Rules. Market trials were held in Canada last spring. Consumer response was good. A few suppliers are working on new color grading kits. They should be ready by next sugaring season. Maple nutrition information is available from the Association. If you find syrup that you feel has been mislabeled or off flavored, please let us know. Ohio reported Asian Longhorned Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer inspections of 200,000 trees. 9,000 were infected and cut down. The next meeting will be in October, 2013 in Moncton, New Brunswick.

- Hank Peterson, Delegate



2013 Tree Tapping Ceremony

The NHMPA will be hosting a new governor at this year's tree tapping ceremony. The location and date has yet to be determined. It is generally held during the first full week of March. Scheduling will be worked out with the Governor's office and hopefully details will be available at the Annual Meeting, and likely at the Regional Meetings. Information will also be posted on our website as soon as it is finalized.

FDA Food Facility Registrations

The following article was published in the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association Newsletter. Similar information was published by The Maple News:

“URGENT: FDA Food Facility Registrations Due The Food Safety and Modernization Act (FSMA), signed into law in early 2011, aims to protect the American food supply through regulations that prevent contamination rather than responding to it. Under the old Bioterrorism Act, many maple sugar makers were exempt from registering their facility with the FDA. However, that law has been superseded by the FSMA and the way the regulation impacts the maple industry has changed. **All maple sugar facilities that process and/or package a food product must register with the FDA.** The FDA makes the distinction that any sugar maker who collects **and** boils sap is undertaking the step of processing sap and therefore must register. The system for registering has changed to a biennial registration; in order to conform all registrations must be updated and submitted to FDA by 12/31/2012.”

The reasoning behind the registration is explained by the following, which is taken directly from the FDA website :

“2.15 Q: [Added February, 2004] Would maple syrup producers be exempt from registering as farms?”

A: The response to this question depends upon the activities of the maple syrup producers. FDA believes that the activities of maple syrup producers customarily consist of two types: gathering sap from sugar maple trees and concentrating the sap through the application of heat to make syrup. Gathering sap is "harvesting" as defined in the Interim Final Rule (21 CFR §1.227(b)(3)). However, concentrating sugar maple sap by heating is a form of manufacturing/processing. (21 CFR §1.227(b)(6)).

Accordingly, a farm that both gathers and concentrates sugar maple sap is a "mixed-type" facility that is required to be registered, unless all of the concentrated sap is consumed on the farm or another farm under the same ownership.”

The NHDAMF director Jennifer Gornert encourages all members to contact the department with any questions or concerns regarding this matter or any other maple issues. Jennifer, Vicki Smith, Janis Conner and Tom Sloan can be reached at (603)271-7761. With their many years of involvement in the maple industry, they all are a great resource for information and aid.

Maple School Review

It was almost too nice a day not to be working in the woods, but the last weekend in October 2012 saw more than 145 people attend the inaugural New Hampshire Maple School.

The daylong forum was held at Winnisquam Regional High School in Tilton, NH. Sponsored by UNH Cooperative Extension, the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association (NHTOA) and New Hampshire Maple Producers Association (NHMPA), the program offered a wide variety of workshops on topics ranging from sizing a reverse osmosis system to getting your sugarhouse ready for inspection.

A keynote speech from Steve Taylor, former New Hampshire Commissioner of Agriculture and partner in Taylor Brothers Sugarhouse and Creamery in Meriden, N.H., got the crowd focused on the opportunities for growth in the New Hampshire maple brand.

“There is great potential for the N.H. maple brand - my guess is we sell about twice as much syrup in New Hampshire as is made here,” Taylor said. “It would be great if all that extra syrup could be produced *in* the Granite State.”

Planning is under way for the second annual New Hampshire Maple School. Surveys of this year’s participants showed a wide range of maple producers attended and organizers hope with the slate of workshops planned for 2013, the forum will offer something for everyone.

Many of the vendors and presenters at the 2012 N.H. Maple School said they were impressed with the strong turnout this year and most said as they were packing up “sign me up for next year.” Stay tuned to NHMPA’s website and *The Gathering Tank* for more information on the second annual N.H. Maple School. We hope to see you next year!



-Submitted by Eric Johnson,
NHTOA Program Director

GOT NEWS?



Our former publicist, Barbara Lassonde, is now the New Hampshire correspondent for The Maple News, and she is hoping you'll contact her if you have any news you would like to share with other maple producers. Her email address is barbaralassonde@aol.com, and her phone number is (603)456-6052.



Maple Weekend Participation Form

If you plan to participate in NEW HAMPSHIRE MAPLE WEEKEND on MARCH 23-24, 2013 and would like **free** publicity, please complete this form and return it to Robyn Pearl **before** FEBRUARY 15, 2012. **ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST HAVE PAID THEIR 2013 ASSOCIATION DUES.** You will receive free publicity through a listing on our website and lists of participating sugar houses will be sent to NH tourist attractions including ski resorts and hotels. We will again be advertising on Channel 9 WMUR and on radio stations throughout the state. Take advantage of a great opportunity to get your operation seen and to promote New Hampshire maple.

We had a record number of participants last year. Please try to get your information back in as close to the due date as possible. If you wait until last minute, no guarantee can be made that your listing will be posted to the website or be added to the list that is distributed.

Sugar House Name: _____

Maple Producer's Name: _____

Physical Address of SUGAR HOUSE: _____

Town: _____ ZIP: _____ County: _____

Phone: _____ Email/Website: _____

Days and Hours you will be open: Sat _____ Sun _____

Please give a brief description of what you will be offering on NH Maple Weekend (i.e.; sugar on snow, sap gathering, tours, demonstrations, products you sell, doughnuts & coffee, etc.) Specify if there is a charge for any activities. Be specific and concise. All listings will be considered for editing.

Return this form to: Robyn Pearl, 409 Loudon Ridge Road, Loudon, NH 03307

Questions or need more information? Call Robyn @ 225-3757 or email at nhmpa@aol.com.