



# The Gathering Tank

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Robyn Pearl, Editor

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

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Special E-dition

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## Maple Season 2013

We want to hear about your maple season! Please send responses back to [nhmpa@aol.com](mailto:nhmpa@aol.com). Please reply by **May 10th** so the information can be compiled for an end of season report. Please consider the following:

- Tapping date
- First boil date
- Last boil date
- Percentage of total crop made in each grade
- Outcome of season - average, below, above your norm

Also, we would like to hear about how your Maple Weekend went:

- Did you have a good turnout?
- Did you boil and was that the main reason you had visitors?
- Did you do private advertising?
- Did anyone mention to you how they heard you were open (TV, radio, newspaper, website)?
- Did anyone contact you to visit during times other than Maple Weekend?
- Are you interested in advertising that you are open for more weekends during the maple season?

We would also love to have pictures from your season and from Maple Weekend. Please send them to [nhmpa@aol.com](mailto:nhmpa@aol.com).



## Carlisle Award Updates

- Entries for the Carlisle award need to be submitted to Board members listed below by **May 15th**.
- Official rules are posted on the NHMPA website.
- **Two (2) judges are needed** to join Tom Sloan from the Dept. of Ag to qualify the entries before the Summer Meeting. The judging will be held on a weekday during the last week of May. It would be preferred if the judge has completed a Grading School, but it is not required. Judges cannot enter into the Carlisle competition. If you are interested in being a judge, please contact Howard Pearl as soon as possible.

Bodie Peters, Sugar Hill, 823-7708

Tim Robinson, Chocorua, 323-9320

Don Lassonde, Warner, 456-6052

Howard Pearl, Loudon, 231-1482

Bill Eva, Hancock, 525-3566

Ben Fisk, Temple, 562-6595

Hank Kenney, Marlborough, 876-3838

Paul Messer, Sr., Orford, 353-4883

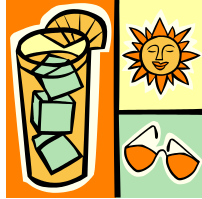
Mike Moore, Canterbury, 783-0321

Hank Peterson, Londonderry, 432-8427

Dave Scanlan, Bow, 228-4449

Peter Thomson, Orford, 353-4111

# Summer Meeting



Are you interested in hosting the Summer Meeting? It is tentatively scheduled for July 20th. It's a fun way to have members see your operation. The location needs to be able to accommodate approximately 75 people. The NHMPA will help you to organize the event. If you are interested in hosting or would like more information, please email Robyn at [nhmpa@aol.com](mailto:nhmpa@aol.com).

Do you have topics that you would like more information on? Are there new technologies that you would like to hear more about? Let us know what you would like to learn at either the Summer or Annual meeting.



## IMSI Maple Grading School

The IMSI is hosting an International Maple Grading School on **May 10-11, 2013** in Skowhegan, ME. The cost to attend is \$135.00 per person. More information regarding registration can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

If you have been considering attending one of these schools, this is a great opportunity to participate without having to travel too far. Also, if you want to be a judge in the Carlisle Award competition, this school is a perfect time just before the preliminary judging at the end of May.

Two other grading schools will be held this year. The first is on July 9-10 in Cornwall, Ontario and the second is on October 4-5 in Fairfield, VT. If you wish to attend either of these schools, more information can be obtained through the same source on page 3.

## Container Labeling Laws

The inspectors at the Department of Agriculture want to remind members of the importance of proper packing and labeling their maple syrup jugs for resale. A list of requirements is on page 4 and 5. Please review them to be sure you are compliant.



## Felker Award Applications



Do you know a student who is interested in entering the competition for the Felker Award?

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](mailto:donlass@aol.com) or Robyn Pearl 225-3757 or [nhmpa@aol.com](mailto:nhmpa@aol.com), or downloaded from our website. Details about the project are outlined on the application.

**Deadline for applications is June 1st.**

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



## School to Farm Days To Be Held

The New Hampshire Agriculture in the Classroom (NHAITC) program will be hosting its School to Farm Days in May. These hands on learning days are an important way to involve students in agriculture.

The event will be held on the following days:

[Tuesday, May 7, Brookdale Farm in Hollis, 9am-2:35pm](#)

[Thursday, May 16 & Friday, May 17, Carter Hill Orchard in Concord, 9am-1:45pm](#)

[Tuesday-Thursday, June 4-6, UNH, 9:30am-2:05pm](#)

Approximately 10 classes of 20 students attend daily. A presentation on maple sugaring is given as part of the curriculum. If you are interested in being a part of this program, please feel free to attend or contact the NHAITC office about it.

The mission of NHAITC is to use agriculture as a vehicle to teach science in order to increase awareness and knowledge in youth of farming practices, to foster their appreciation for our agrarian heritage and rural lifestyle, and to encourage them to be responsible stewards of our land.

Announcing the tenth annual...



## **IMSI - International Maple Grading School**

**May 10 & 11, 2013**  
**Skowhegan, ME**

**The International Maple Grading School is for maple producers, bulk syrup buyers, state inspectors and others needing to accurately grade maple syrup or judge maple product entries at fairs and contests. This school will provide a strong scientific base combined with intensive hands-on exercises. This approach will enable participants to learn how to grade or judge maple products with confidence. It is being held in Skowhegan, ME on May 10 and 11, 2013.**

**Space is limited and pre-registration is required. For further information contact Kathy Hopkins, Phone 207-474-9622, FAX 207-474-0374 or Email: [khopkins@maine.edu](mailto:khopkins@maine.edu)**

**The International Maple Grading School is sponsored by the International Maple Syrup Institute, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.**

*A fee is charged for this Extension program to cover costs. A limited number of scholarships are available to individuals unable to pay. If you are a person with a disability and will need any accommodations to participate in this program, please call Kathy Hopkins at 207-474-9622 to discuss your needs. Please contact me at least 14 days prior to this event to assure fullest possible attention to your needs.*

*In complying with the letter and spirit of applicable laws and pursuing its own goals of diversity, the University of Maine shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, including transgender status or gender expression, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, or veteran's status in employment, education, and all other areas of the University System. The University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.*

*Questions and complaints about discrimination in any area of the University should be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity, the University of Maine, 5754 North Stevens Hall, Room 101, Orono, ME 04469-5754, telephone (207) 581-1226, TTY (207) 581-9484.*



Mail: Kathy Hopkins, Extension Educator, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Somerset County, 7 County Drive, Skowhegan, ME 04976

Voice: 207-474-9622

Fax: 207-474-0374

Email: [khopkins@maine.edu](mailto:khopkins@maine.edu)

## **LABELING MAPLE SYRUP FOR SALE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Syrup sold in New Hampshire must comply with RSA 429:14 I.; *Every shipment, package or container of maple syrup packed, sold, offered or exposed for sale or distribution by any person shall be plainly marked according to packaging and labeling rules and shall include:*

- Name, Address & Zip Code of Packer, Distributor or Producer
- True Name of the Product
- Volume of Contents (at 60 degrees F)

Grade

If labeled as NH Maple syrup, the contents must be entirely produced within the state.

Contents may not be adulterated with any other sweetener or any substance that changes its characteristics.

NH Grade Requirements are as follows:

“Maple Syrup” means syrup that has a density range of 36-37 Baume (66.9-68.9 Brix) at 60°F.

Grade A is pure maple syrup that:

- Is practically clear or better
- Has a good maple flavor practically free from damage
- Is free from (none) serious damage

Has the color; Light, Medium or Dark Amber indicated (in accordance with USDA color standards)

Grade B is pure maple syrup that:

- Is darker than the Dark Amber Color Standard, or;
- Does not meet Grade A requirements, provided it;
- Has a fairly good maple flavor
- Is free from serious damage

Is practically free from foreign material

Substandard does not meet Grade A or B and shall not be packed in consumer sized containers.

Packing Requirements:

All Consumer Sized Containers shall be:

- • Hot packed at 180° F or higher
- • Of food grade material

Have tamper evident seals

All Maple Syrup Containers, Caps & Closures Shall:

- • Be clean, sanitary & rust free
- • Be stored prior to use so as to prevent contamination

Not contain or be constructed of any substance which could damage the color, flavor, marketability, purity or safety of the syrup

Please contact the Division of Regulatory Services if you should have any questions. You can call the Division at (603) 271-3685 or (603) 271-2753, email [Jennifer.Gornnert@agr.nh.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Gornnert@agr.nh.gov), or mail questions to:

**New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food**

**Division of Regulatory Services**

**PO Box 2042**

**Concord, NH 03302**