



# The Gathering Tank

Volume 18, Issue 5 December 2013



Robyn Pearl, Editor

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

## Annual Meeting Scheduled



The Annual Meeting of the NHMPA is scheduled for Saturday, January 25, 2014 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.

Cara Cargill from the NH Agricultural Mediation Program will be speaking about the services her office provides, such as free mediation services to the agricultural community to help resolve disputes before they end up in court.

A member of the NH Department of Agriculture, Regulatory Division will be speaking on the newly proposed grading rules and the changes that will be made to the NH maple rules.

We will also have the opportunity for a Question and Answer session with the members of the Executive Board. Here is your opportunity to discuss with them suggestions or concerns you have regarding the NHMPA and its future. They also will be asking the same of you.

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 15th.

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 session will feature Brad Gilliland from Leader Evaporator. He will be discussing marketing.

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 and camaraderie.

## Maple Sugaring Month Planned



In response to the many years of varying success due to weather related issues on Maple Weekend, the NHMPA will be hosting Maple Sugaring Month from March 15-April 6. The highlight of the event will be Maple Weekend on March 22-23. This event is designed to bring awareness to the sugaring season and hope to dispel the idea that maple syrup is made on one weekend only.

A sign up form can be found on page 5 of this newsletter. When filling it out, be sure to keep in mind that this event is customized by you. There is no expectation to participate every weekend, or even any weekend outside of Maple Weekend if that is what works best for you. Your offerings can be as involved or simple as you can manage comfortably. We hope that this event will be a success for you this coming season and for many in the future.



## Attend the Regional Meetings

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

- Tues, Feb 4-** Intervale Farm Pancake House, Rte 114 & Flanders Rd, Henniker
- Thurs, Feb 6-** Stuart & John's Sugar House, Rtes 63 & 12, Westmoreland
- Tues, Feb 11** – Mt Cube Farm, Gov Thomson Hwy, Orford
- Thurs, Feb 13-** Fish & Game Research Bldg, Rte 3, Lancaster

All meetings begin at 7pm. A representative from the NH Dept. of Agriculture will be in attendance to calibrate your hydrometer, so be sure to bring it with you. 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 with you.

## President's Corner

There have been many changes in the maple industry over the years. Change doesn't happen without resistance, and ultimately stems from necessity. How many times have we heard the following:

- You can't make good syrup if you use tubing. Hmm, not many of us hang buckets anymore.
- You can't make good syrup if you boil with oil. How many large operations use wood as fuel these days?
- You can't make good syrup using an RO. Now there is an RO even for the hobby sugar maker.
- You can't promote maple in the fall. Well, we did that too!

Change is a hard thing to do with NH sugar makers. But as the years go on we are able to see that change is what brought us to where we are today.

I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday season and am looking forward to seeing all of you at the annual meeting.

- Bodie Peters

## Publicity Report



The 2014 maple season will be upon us shortly. We are working on updating our website to make it more user friendly for both members and visitors to the site. We hope to have our new "Tapline" up and running for the season. It will be a feature where guests can map out a route to various sugar houses they wish to visit.

We also are changing the focus on how to locate sugar houses by switching from county listings to 7 regional areas. This will correlate with the NH Dept. of Tourism, who is promoting the state in this way. It is a more logical approach for visitors as they will likely be able to identify which region of the state they are visiting, opposed to which county they are staying in. A list of regions and towns can be found on our website, or you can call the Maple Phone (225-3757) to get the info.

We had a minimal participation for the Maple Adventure Month, but as with anything new, everyone has to get used to a new concept. We will continue to help members get as much exposure as possible with the expanded promotion of Maple Sugaring Month with our 19th annual Maple Weekend as the highlight! See you at the meeting.

- Robyn Pearl

## Secretary's Notes

Our membership is at 402 for 2013 (410 for 2012) although there are 7-8 new members that have paid for 2014. As usual, there are delinquents and new additions that seem to keep our totals fairly even. 2014 Dues are now due. An application blank is in this newsletter.

Another year has come and gone and we are all looking forward to the '14 maple season, and hoping for a 'banner' one as good as last year.

The product sales at the Hopkinton and Deerfield fair sugarhouses, including the Big E, went especially well this year. I would like to once again thank all the volunteers who staffed these sugar houses and help maintain a strong maple presence at these fairs. Members in their respective fair areas should take an interest in promoting maple at these fairs...it puts us on the same plain as other agricultural commodities. Eventually, I would like to see a sugarhouse at all the county fairs in the state.

Felker Award applications will be available at the Annual Meeting or anytime from the Secretary. If you know of anyone not older than 18 by June 1st who would take an interest in this endeavor, please let me or anyone on the board know and we will send them an application. The prize is a plaque and \$100 check.

-- Don Lassonde

## Get Onboard!!!

◆ Attend a Board meeting! They are always open to the membership. Join in the discussion that helps to shape the direction of the association. Meeting dates are posted on the calendar found on our website.

◆ Not able to attend a meeting?  
Email or call any director with questions or concerns.

Minutes from the meetings are posted on the Members section of our website.

◆ Interested in becoming a member of the board?  
Contact Don Lassonde, our Nominating Chairman for more details on what each position involves.





## NHMPA Container Prices for 2014 Season

The Container Chairman in conjunction with Bacon Jug, Inc. have set the following prices:

<u>Size</u>	<u>Case Quantity</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Individual</u>
Gallon	24	\$ 51.00	\$ 2.32
1/2 Gallon	48	78.50	1.82
Quart	80	97.50	1.40
Pint	100	107.00	1.32
1/2 Pint	100	97.00	1.25
3.4 oz.	200	168.00	1.05

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

**D  
E**

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

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

**A  
L**

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

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

**E  
R**

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

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

**S**

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



## Volunteers Sought to Promote New Hampshire Maple

The Farm and Forest Expo will be held on February 7 & 8, 2014. Sugar makers are needed to help at the NHMPA booth. This annual agricultural educational event hosts approximately 3500 guests. 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

This year's IMSI/NAMSC meeting was held in Moncton, NB in October, 2013. Approximately 350 people were in attendance.

The IMSI meeting was the most informative during the session. It covered the new grading rules, syrup adulteration, organic certification, misleading labeling of maple products and sponsoring the Maple Grading School. The most interesting was the grading.

We just received the latest update from the USDA. The NHMPA has a committee working with the NH Department of Agriculture to assess the changes necessary to the current NH rules to correlate them to the USDA grading, while ensuring the high standards of NH made syrup are maintained. The committee members are Howard Pearl, Bill Eva and Hank Peterson.

Maine, Vermont and New York have moved ahead with the new rules. Ohio and Michigan are currently working on the rule changes. The largest unknown as of now is what will be acceptable wording on the containers. An IMSI committee is addressing this.

The biggest change is to the label. The following 4 grades have been approved: Grade A Golden Delicate Taste, Grade A Amber Rich Taste, Grade A Dark Robust Taste, and Grade A Very Dark Strong Taste. These will replace our current 3 Grade A classes and Grade B. Extensive consumer research was conducted in the US and Canada which found the grading to be better understood and accepted.

The NAMSC meeting had a number of interesting topics. Notable ones included Roy Hutchinson retiring from the editor position of the Maple Digest as of June 2014. Thank you Roy and Mary Ellen for your service. A gift of \$10,000 was made by the family of Elmer Kress. Elmer was the creator of the Kress jug. Research funded the following projects: detection of contaminated maple syrup, tap injury in red maples, safety of the use of isopropyl alcohol in cleaning sap equipment, food safety and how it affects maple. Currently, sugar houses are required to register. Rack cards on nutrition are available online. More information can be found in the December issue of the Maple Digest.

Next year's meeting will be held in Nova Scotia.



-Hank Peterson, Delegate

# 2nd Annual Maple School Review

The second annual Maple School was held on October 26, 2013 at Winnisquam High School in Tilton. Approximately 130 people were in attendance, down a small percentage from the previous year. It was also the returning weekend from the IMSI/NAMSC meeting in New Brunswick.

Steve Roberge from the UNH Extension Service and Eric Johnson from the NHTOA were the coordinators of the event. Steve had the following comments about the day: "Again I would say the day was a success. We are always trying to balance the sessions so we can meet the needs of the novice/beginning sugar maker and all the way to the veterans of the industry. In light of that, we take the surveys seriously and we are always open to suggestions for next year. The Fall schedule is tight and we are aware of the conflict with the NAMSC Meeting." Thank you to both Steve and Eric for their efforts in creating another successful event.

The event was sponsored by the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, NH Timberland Owners Association, NHMPA and the NH Dept. of Resources and Economic Development. Thank you to all for their continued support.



## Odds & Ends

- ◆ NHMPA cookbooks for resale and IMSI nutritional rack cards are available. Please contact Robyn if you are in need of either of these valuable resources for your customers.



- ◆ If you have any changes to your contact information, please forward them to be sure you are being kept up to date with the latest happenings in the NHMPA.

- ◆ A new season means new opportunities for photos. Send us your best shots! We love to have lots to choose from when the media asks for pictures. Email them to [nhmpa@aol.com](mailto:nhmpa@aol.com).



## NHBugs.org

Protecting trees and forests

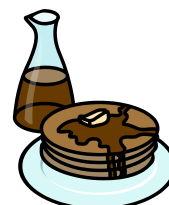
Karen Bennett, UNH Extension Forestry Professor and Specialist has issued the following information.

- A forest health review for 2013 has been published by the NH Division of Forests and Lands. It can be found at the following link: [http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource002053\\_Rep5131.pdf](http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource002053_Rep5131.pdf). It contains updates on emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, Asian longhorned beetle, white pine blister rust and red pine scale.
- New Hampshire no longer allows untreated firewood to be imported into New Hampshire from Massachusetts. More information about the external firewood quarantine and the quarantine of all hardwood firewood, ash wood-products and all ash nursery stock in Merrimack County is available at: <http://nhbugs.org/firewood-quarantines>
- Jen Weimer, Forest Health Specialist with the N.H. Division of Forests and Lands asks anyone who thinks they've seen winter moth to report it to the [nhbugs site](http://nhbugs.org/invasive-insect-reporting-form) <http://nhbugs.org/invasive-insect-reporting-form>. She is gathering locations now for scouting in the spring. Winter moths fly in late November through December, until the cold kills the adult moth. It feeds in early spring as a caterpillar on oak, birch, maple, apple and other hardwoods and seems to have a special fondness for blueberries. The coastal areas of Maine and Massachusetts have had severe defoliation from winter moth the past few years. Although we know we have the insect here in coastal New Hampshire, we haven't documented any discernable defoliation from winter moth in New Hampshire. Learn more about winter moth at <http://nhbugs.org/winter-moth>.

## Food for Thought...

BLOOD IS THICKER THAN WATER,  
BUT MAPLE SYRUP IS THICKER THAN BLOOD.  
SO PANCAKES ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN FAMILY.

THERE, I SAID IT.





# Maple Sugaring Month

## Participation Form



In choosing to participate, the level of what you want to offer is entirely up to you. If you wish to offer something similar to what you do on Maple Weekend, please do so. If that is more than you want or are able to do, please create your event at a level that is manageable for your operation. The same is true of when to sign up for. If certain weekends work better for you, only register for those. The dates are set to follow the sugaring season, beginning from March 15th in the south until April 6th in the north.

To help tourists better understand our state, we will be getting away from identifying location by county but instead by geographic region. The state will be divided into 7 regions: Great North Woods, White Mountains, Lakes Region, Monadnocks, Merrimack Valley, Seacoast and Dartmouth - Lake Sunapee. A list of towns per region and a map will be available on our website or call 225-3757 to verify which region you are in.

**Please note: All contact information on this form is for public use. List the means by which you wish visitors to contact you.**

Sugar House Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Maple Producer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Physical** Address of SUGAR HOUSE: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email/Website: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mar 15-16:** open hours on Sat \_\_\_\_\_ Sun \_\_\_\_\_ **\*Mar 22-23:** open hours on Sat \_\_\_\_\_ Sun \_\_\_\_\_

**Mar 29-30:** open hours on Sat \_\_\_\_\_ Sun \_\_\_\_\_ **Apr 5-6:** open hours on Sat \_\_\_\_\_ Sun \_\_\_\_\_

**\* Maple Weekend - it will continue to be the highlight of the season**

Please give a brief description of what you will be offering during Maple Sugaring Month (demonstrations, tours, products you sell, samples, doughnuts & coffee, etc.) If you have an event special to one weekend, please note. Specify if there is a charge for any activities. Please be specific and concise.

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**Return this form by February 15th to:** Robyn Pearl, 409 Loudon Ridge Road, Loudon, NH 03307

Questions or need more information? Email Robyn at [nhmpa@aol.com](mailto:nhmpa@aol.com) or call 225-3757.



## New Hampshire Maple Producers Association, Inc.

### Annual Meeting Agenda

**When:** January 25, 2014

**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

Cara Cargill, NH Agricultural Mediation Program



11:00 – 11:30 am - New Proposed Grading Rules, Discussion with a member of the  
NH Department of Agriculture, Department of Regulatory Services

11:30 - 12 Noon - Q & A Session with the Executive Board

12 Noon - Buffet Lunch

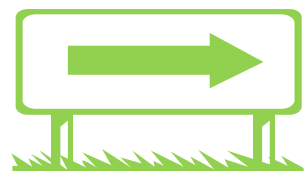
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm - Carlisle Award presentation

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm - Brad Gilliland, Leader Evaporator - Marketing

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

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**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.





# New Hampshire Maple Producers Association, Inc.

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date \_\_\_\_\_ New Member? \_\_\_\_\_ 2013 Member? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you receiving the Maple Syrup Digest? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Average # of gallons produced annually \_\_\_\_\_ # of taps \_\_\_\_\_

### **ANNUAL DUES: \$20.00 (January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>)**

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](http://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: Baked Stuffed Chicken # \_\_\_\_\_ or Roast Beef # \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Cost: \$14.95 each. Please make lunch reservations by January 15th.**

(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? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IMPORTANT: ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE ENCLOSED

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

Wishing everyone



A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

Here's to a successful and prosperous 2014!