



# The Gathering Tank

Volume 19, Issue 2    October 2014



Robyn Pearl, Editor

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



## IMSI/NAMSC Annual Meeting



The 40th annual meeting of the IMSI and the 55th annual meeting of the NAMSC will be held at the Old Orchard Inn and Spa, Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia from Tuesday **October 21st - Friday October 24th.**

This year's agenda includes annual IMSI-NAMSC meetings, workshops and technical sessions covering topics such as the impact of insect outbreaks, tapping guidelines and the new grading standards. There will be a photo contest and a syrup and confections contest. Deadlines for entry are coming up, so be sure to get your submissions in soon.

A **Maple Syrup Grading School** will take place in conjunction with the conference on **October 20-21, 2014.** If you need additional information or have questions, please contact **Kathy Hopkins** at **207.474.9622** or **khopkins@maine.edu** or refer to the website: **<http://extension.umaine.edu/maple-grading-school/>**. The registration deadline for the grading school is **October 13.**

Registration for the entire event includes the welcome reception on Wednesday evening, breakfasts, lunches, and entry for all meetings, sessions and the trade show. A one day registration is available as well for Thursday which includes meetings, lunch, trade show, technical sessions and a conference book.

Each evening will offer entertainment and other events including a silent auction and an awards banquet.

Here's the link for registration: **<http://www.novascotiamaplesyrup.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Nova-Scotia-2014-Registration-Form.pdf>** Be sure to call the hotel

right away for accommodations. They are likely to be booked for the week, but may have suggestions of other locations for lodging.



It's time to get back to school! The 3rd Annual Maple School will be in session on Saturday, October 18th at Winnisquam High School in Tilton, NH with registration beginning at 8:00 am and concluding at 3:00pm.

The format will be the same as last year, with morning sessions, a break for lunch when you will be able to enjoy a freshly made meal in the cafeteria or head to town to find a meal, and return for the afternoon classes.

This year's topics offer options for sugaring operations of all sizes. Subjects include expanding your operation, choosing the correct vacuum system, sugarbush management, RO efficiency, boiling concentrate, making candy and cream, flavor identification, NH grading standards, maple sapling production method, birch syrup and more. Classes are 45 minutes each with 3 sessions held in the morning and 2 sessions after lunch.

A brochure with the full schedule can be found at: **<http://extension.unh.edu/events/files/FFEEBA78-017D-DC34-9199516B2E2179B4.pdf>**

Registration is available online at: **[www.events.unh.edu/RegistrationForm?event\\_id=16964](http://www.events.unh.edu/RegistrationForm?event_id=16964)**

To guarantee a lunch reservation, please register by **October 15th.** Registration will also be allowed at the door and you can check if lunch is still available.

Vendors will be on hand to answer questions and provide you with all your needs for getting your operation ready for the upcoming season.

Be sure to bring a notebook and pencil. You'll need them with all of the information that will be offered!





# 2015 Sugar House Tour Guide



## NHBugs.org

Protecting trees and forests

The deadline is coming soon to sign up for the publication of the 2015 Sugar House Tour Guide, an annual brochure that offers to members year round advertising. There is a \$30.00 participation fee.

The guide is distributed to the rest areas across the state by volunteer aide from some of our NHMPA members. It also is available to the public at the fairs, educational forums and by request.

The application is available on our website, [www.nhmapleproducers.com](http://www.nhmapleproducers.com) or can be printed off from page 4 of this newsletter.



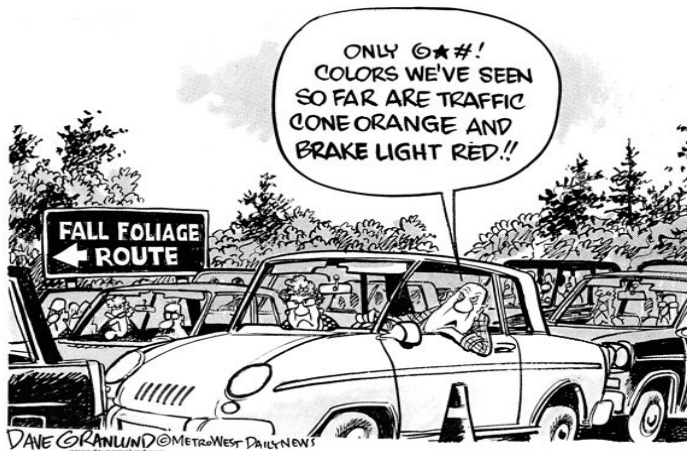
## Maple Adventure Month Promotion



Due to the lack of member participation, the Board of Directors has cancelled the NHMPA fall promotion. Three sugar houses signed up for the event. It is unfortunate that this has occurred as the promotion was approved by a vote from the Association members, yet few are willing to support it.

With the number of visitors to our state flooding in to view the maple leaves turning brilliant colors and the promotion by the food industry that maple is a fall flavor, there is great potential to capitalize on sales and expand your customer base.

Please remember this is your Association and input for promotional projects is always welcomed.



The following information has been provided by Karen Bennett, UNH Extension Forestry Professor & Specialist:

Emerald ash borer was found in Salem, New Hampshire in the green traps deployed by the N.H. Division of Forests and Lands. This find means the quarantine will expand from Merrimack County into Rockingham County and also the part of Hillsborough County east of Route 3 and the Route 293 loop around Manchester-including those highways. This includes all or portions of the Hillsborough County towns of Pelham, Hudson, Nashua, Litchfield, Merrimack, Bedford, and Manchester. The new boundaries of the quarantine will go into effect on **October 9th**.

The State is holding a public informational meeting about EAB and the quarantine on **October 9th** from 4 to 6 PM at the Hilton Auditorium at the Rockingham County Nursing Home on William Sturtevant Way off North Road in Brentwood. At the meeting, representatives from the N.H. Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food and the N.H. Dept. of Resources and Economic Development Division of Forests and Lands will describe the emerald ash borer's threat and the purpose and provisions of the quarantine. Concerned citizens, homeowners who have ash trees on their properties, community leaders, members of the forestry and "green" industries, and those concerned about the health of New Hampshire's trees and forests are encouraged to attend.

Two additional conferences regarding insects and tree health will be held in October: Emerald Ash Borer and Other Causes of Tree Decline on Monday, **October 6th** at 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the Boscawen Municipal Complex - 116 North Main Street, 4th Floor, Boscawen NH 03303 and Pesticides for Safeguarding Ash Trees Against Emerald Ash Borer on Thursday, **October 30th** at 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Society for the Protection of NH Forests - 54 Portsmouth St., Concord NH 03301.

For more information regarding these events, please visit [www.goodforestry.org](http://www.goodforestry.org), [www.nhwoods.org](http://www.nhwoods.org) or [www.nhbugs.org](http://www.nhbugs.org), or contact Karen Bennett at (603) 312-6695 or [karen.bennett@unh.edu](mailto:karen.bennett@unh.edu).



# Calling All Cooks!!

Do you have a special family recipe that gets rave reviews? How about delicious recipes that consider dietary restrictions? We'd love for you to share them with us!



We have sold out our entire inventory of NHMPA cookbooks and it's time for an update. The last revision of the cookbook was in 2001. Many new members have joined the association since the last opportunity to be included in the book and we would love to include your best maple recipes. If you are not familiar with the book, it contains over 90 pages of recipes including pancakes, breads, cakes, cookies, pies, candies, main dishes, vegetables, pickles, dressings and other creative ways to use maple products.

The deadline for submitting recipes has been extended to **November 15th**. The book will be ready for sale for the upcoming season. Email your favorites to [nhmpa@aol.com](mailto:nhmpa@aol.com) or send by mail to **NHMPA, 409 Loudon Ridge Road, Loudon, NH 03307**.

# Help Plan the Future

In pursuit of following the bylaws of the Association, it is necessary to reinstate standing committees to provide guidance to the Board of Directors and ensure the Association is operating at the best of its abilities.

The following committees need members and/or a chairperson :

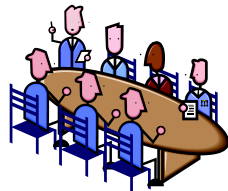
Budget, Finance and Audit - chair and members

Legislative- chair and members

Promotion- chair and members

Nominating- members

Container- members



If you are interested in helping the NHMPA move forward in a positive direction, please contact a director.

If you have any information that you wish to share with the association, have questions or any needs from the NHMPA, please send an email to: [nhmpa@aol.com](mailto:nhmpa@aol.com).

Much information can be found on our website:

[www.nhmapleproducers.com](http://www.nhmapleproducers.com)

Check the calendar under the events tab to see what's coming up!



# Attention Shutterbugs!!



We would love some new pictures for our website! Send us your snapshots of the beautiful fall foliage in your sugarbush. Keep your cameras handy for taking out of season shots too. It's a great way to demonstrate all of the hard work that goes into maintaining your sugaring operation. Whether you are doing forest management, replacing lines, working on your evaporator or RO, we'd love to see what you are up to.

We have upgraded the look of our website and it would be great to have fresh photos to post. Email your photos to [nhmpa@aol.com](mailto:nhmpa@aol.com), then check out our website to see your photos featured.

# NHMPA SEEKING NEW TREASURER FOR 2015



After 10 years of serving the NHMPA as treasurer, Howard Pearl has decided to step down from the position. "I feel it is imperative to the longevity of the association to change leadership and bring in new ideas," Pearl said.

The treasurer is an executive member of the Board of Directors and is asked to attend the approximate 6 board meetings per year. The position receives a \$2000/year stipend and requires approximately 8 hours of time per month. Basic accounting skills are necessary. The job involves recommending financial decisions for the NHMPA, maintaining bank accounts, paying bills, working with the accountant for tax preparation, preparing a budget and providing accurate reports at board meetings as well as to the membership.



Howard is available to work with whomever chooses to take on this responsibility and help transition him/her into the position. Please feel free to contact Howard directly at **231-**

**1482** or [hpearlpsf@aol.com](mailto:hpearlpsf@aol.com) if you have any questions as you make your decision to seek the position. Anyone who is interested in taking over this position should contact a member of the Board of Directors to have themselves considered. Contact information can be found on our website; [www.nhmapleproducers.com](http://www.nhmapleproducers.com).



# 2015 SUGAR HOUSE TOUR GUIDE

It's time once again to plan our Sugar House Tour Guide: **New Hampshire Maple Sugar Houses Welcome Visitors**. The brochure is designed utilizing brightly colored maple leaves on the cover and amber topic headlines. It features a list of sugar houses with product and service descriptions, a state map with region boundary lines and regions labeled for reference, a brief history of maple production, pictures, and other helpful information about maple and maple products.

Last year, 11,000 copies were printed. All were distributed prior to the sugaring season and throughout the year to highway rest areas, chambers of commerce and other strategic locations, including fairs, expos, educational forums, etc., and to individuals requesting them.

This is a great opportunity to get your sugar house advertised year round for thousands to see, and for a low cost. The more listings we have, the more effective the brochure is. We had an almost capacity listing last year, so if we have even more members choosing to participate, we may switch to a booklet format that would be the same size but feature counties on their own pages.

This service is provided only to current paid members of the NHMPA. If you would like to be listed in the brochure, please send a \$30.00 check made out to **NHMPA** to:

Robyn Pearl, 409 Loudon Ridge Road, Loudon, NH 03307.

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

**WE MUST RECEIVE YOUR APPLICATION BY OCTOBER 31, 2014**



Name \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Sugarhouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address of Sugar house \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email/website \_\_\_\_\_

Same description as last year? Yes \_\_\_ If not, please give a **brief** description of what you offer: (i.e. pancake breakfast, mail order, etc.). This is a **year round** listing, **not** for Maple Weekend. If the description is too long, it will be edited to fit.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_