

M A S S A C H U S E T T S

SUGAR BUSH NEWS



The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Maple Producers Association

7th Annual Maple Weekend March 21-22

Massachusetts Maple Producers Association will coordinate the sixth annual 'Maple Weekend' on March 21-22, 2020. This weekend of events promotes local, pure Massachusetts maple products.

Sugarmakers are encouraged to participate by opening their sugarhouses to the public during that weekend and offering demonstrations, tastings, tours, meals and other activities to entertain and educate customers. Participating sugarhouses will be featured on the Mass Maple website, and the Association will purchase advertising to attract consumers to the website. **See the back of the membership renewal form in this mailing for details about how to participate.**

Previous years' events have been very successful. Dozens of sugarhouses and restaurants have participated, and there has been excellent press coverage. This is an exciting opportunity to have a coordinated range of activities designed to raise awareness about our work and encourage consumers to purchase pure maple products direct from their local sugarmakers. Members are strongly encouraged to participate by offering an open house and publicizing the weekend's events to your customers via Facebook and other social media.

Emails over the next few months will offer more details and solicit input, but please fill out the enclosed form and start planning your events today!



MMPA Annual Meeting and Workshop

The 2020 Annual Meeting and trade show will be held on Saturday, January 11, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Mohawk High School in Buckland.

The trade show will feature a range of dealers from the maple industry. As in past years, members can bring hydrometers for free testing. There will be many door prizes. The business meeting in the morning will include a recap of the year's events and an election of board members, and we'll enjoy a great barbeque lunch.

Maple technical advisor and teacher Joël Boutin will present the afternoon workshop. He will talk about how to make sure the product that comes out of your evaporator is perfect, and how to best operate your evaporator and set up your sugarhouse. Joël is generally regarded as one of the best teachers in our industry, so you don't want to miss this!



MA Wins Big Again!

MA sugarmakers once again took home the most awards from the North American Maple Syrup Council's annual international contest. Congratulations to Boyden Brothers Maple in Conway and Girard's Sugarhouse in Heath, and thanks for representing our state so well!

From the MMPA President

Greetings fellow “Sap Heads.”

As I write this communication my fingers are already cracked from the early cold weather we are experiencing. Hopefully setting the stage for a productive sugaring season. Ask me again in April.

As you have likely read or heard, Massachusetts Maple Products once again did very well in the judging at the NAMSC/IMSI meeting in Duluth. Although something to be very proud of, it is only a small part of what goes on at the annual meetings of these international organizations. Maple research, marketing strategies, and proactive work to head off negative effects that can befall the industry due to broad strokes of the regulatory brush at the federal level. I have learned so much by attending these and many other such meetings.

This year in Duluth I was approached by the nomi-

nating committee of NAMSC to see if I would be interested in joining the executive board. This was not only a total surprise, but quite an honor. After some thought I accepted the nomination and was later elected to a six year commitment. Starting as Vice President for two years, President for two years, and two more as past president. This will make me President of NAMSC when we host the meeting in 2022. It will be here before we know it! I hope that I can rise to the occasion and make Massachusetts proud.

Thanks to all of the great volunteers and managers, we had a very successful year at the maple booth at the Big E.

We have a great presentation planed for the membership at the annual meeting this year. Plan on attending, socializing and learning.

See you there!

Howard Boyden, President

Massachusetts Maple Producers Association Board of Directors

The Massachusetts Maple Producers Association is a non-profit organization representing more than 250 producers in our state. The Association is governed by a board of directors, and daily operations are conducted by a coordinator who serves at the discretion of the board. If you have any questions, problems or suggestions, please let one of the following people hear from you. The board relies on your input to keep them informed on issues of importance to you.

Name	Term Expires	E-mail Address	Town
Keith Bardwell – Vice-President	2019	kwb1987@comcast.net	Whately
Howard Boyden – President	2019	boydenmaple@gmail.com	Conway
Patrick Delaney	2021	occasionalcreekmaple@gmail.com	Belchertown
Dana Goodfield	2021*	danachevww@aol.com	Conway
Jason Goodhind	2020	jgoodhind1988@gmail.com	Hadley
Tom LeRay	2020*	t_jwleray56@verizon.net	Royalston
Tom McCrumm	2020*	tom@southfacefarm.com	Ashfield
J.P. Welch	2020	welch@justameretreefarm.com	Worthington
Paul Zononi	2021	pzmaple@aol.com	Williamsburg

*Those Directors with a * next to their term expiration date will have served two consecutive terms as directors, and cannot be re-elected without at least a one year break.*

Containers

Mass Maple Warehouse	212 Reynolds Rd., Shelburne, MA	413-625-2900
Devon Lane Farm Supply	357 Daniel Shays Hwy., Belchertown, MA	413-323-6336
Red Bucket Sugar Shack	Kinne Brook Rd., Worthington, MA	413-238-7710
Sweet Water Sugar House	56 Brown Rd, Royalston, MA	978-249-3464

Main Office

Winton Pitcoff - Coordinator/Treasurer	winton@massmaple.org	413-628-3912
Mass Maple Association office	PO Box 6, Plainfield, MA 01070	
E-mail: info@massmaple.org	Mass Maple Website: www.massmaple.org	

Mass Maple Warehouse

Carolyn & John Wheeler

212 Reynolds Road, Shelburne, MA 01370
413-625-2900 • cwheeler@wheelviewfarm.com
Please note new information

HOURS: The warehouse is open seven days a week, on a “call ahead” basis only. The home phone 413-625-2900 gets forwarded to Carolyn’s cell phone so don’t hang up if it goes to a different number. That way she can get calls when away from the house. If you do get the answering machine, please leave a message and someone will return your call. If you haven’t gotten a call back, that means they haven’t gotten your message yet.

Please be sure to call ahead for everyone’s convenience – don’t be disappointed by arriving unannounced and finding no one there to assist you. Terms are cash or check only upon pick-up – no charges.

SUPPLIES: The warehouse is well stocked with all sizes of plastic Mass Maple syrup jugs and maple cream jars. Other syrup containers stocked include three sizes of glass maple leaf bottles, 250 ml & 500 ml glass gallons, and 20 liter (5 1/4 gallon) plastic containers for bulk packing. The warehouse also has maple candy boxes 4 oz or 8 oz sizes and cardboard cartons for all size of jugs. Many other materials are available: Posters, recipe booklets, grade labels, hang tags, instructional and educational videos, etc.

Look at the Mass Maple price sheet to see all the items carried at the warehouse.

UPS: They can ship only full cases of jugs. You will be billed for the cost of the jugs plus UPS charges. Call in your order to the warehouse (413-625-2900) and they will send it out with a bill. Payment should be made out to MMPA and mailed to the warehouse address. Partial cases of jugs and glass of any quantity cannot be shipped safely.



Classifieds

For Sale: I am retiring and selling this evaporator. Small Brothers stainless steel 4x10 oil fired evaporator, 4x6 raised flue pan, two 2x4 cross flow front pans, soldered. Peabody Gordon-Piatt high/low fire oil burner, boils about 140 gal/hr. Includes preheater hood, steam stack, galvanized firebox stack, flue pan low-level alarm and all floats, etc. \$4500.

For Sale: 1000 gallon enclosed oval plastic sap tank. Only used for RO permeate water. It has a 2” outlet and a bottom drain outlet. Tank is mounted on 2x8’s by three steel bolt-down pipe bands over the tank. Located in Ashfield, behind my sugarhouse. Good for water or sap, can go on a truck bed. \$450.

For Lease: Approximately 1000 taps in Ashfield, all tubing and pipelines in place, spouts are one year old. Another 600 taps could be made available with some mainline re-locating.

For Sale: LaPierre RO with two 8” posts. Includes SS wash tank with heater and thermostat, LaPierre “Big Blue” sap pre-filter with extra insert and filter clothes, twin cartridge filters w/ spares and 3-way valve panel. Membranes have been cleaned regularly during the season and at the end. Although not new, they have plenty of good life left in them. Pumps are either new or have been recently rebuilt. \$5500.

Maple Mail Order Business Available: Over the past 30+ years I have built up a successful mail order business for maple products, with five-figure annual sales. My customer list has 1700 names and addresses for customers who have purchased from me. I have weeded this long list down to about 150 names of long-time steady customers or those who have purchased within the past few years. I do not want my loyal customers to be left out in the cold without a reliable source for Massachusetts maple products. I’m not really interested in just selling my mailing list outright. If you are interested, make me a proposal.

All items are in Ashfield. Call 413-628-3268 and leave message, or email tom@southfacefarm.com, or text to 413-522-3075.

Free Registration to VT Maple Workshops

The Vermont Maple Conference in Brattleboro will be held on Saturday, January 18. Mass Maple members who attend will be reimbursed for their registration fee (one person per membership) of \$40 – send Winton your receipt after you attend. Workshops will include updates from the Proctor Center, reports on business planning and other research, silviculture, maple cotton candy making, and more. More info and registration is here: <https://vermont-maple.org/maple-conferences>.

Mass Maple Board Members Needed!

There will be an election for several board positions at the annual meeting in January. JP Welch is running for a second term, but three other seats will be open. Board members meet monthly in Conway and help make decisions about MMPA's operation and management. If you are interested, please contact President Howard Boyden at hboyden@oescoinc.com for more information.



Such a Small Newsletter?

With rising printing and postage costs, and the fact that we email updates to members on a regular basis, we have shrunk our bi-annual newsletter to help keep dues affordable. If you have any questions, or want to be sure you're on our email list, contact Winton at winton@massmaple.org.

Maple Month Kickoff to be Held in Colrain on March 6

The MMPA March is Maple Month Kickoff will be held Friday, March 6 at 10 a.m. at Sunrise Farms in Colrain. Host sugarmakers the Lively family will welcome MDAR Commissioner John Lebeaux and other guests as we tap the ceremonial first tree of the season. All MMPA members, along with other supporters of the maple industry, are welcome to attend.

Are Plastic Bags Still OK?

A ban on single-use plastic bags is making its way through the legislative process. As of now it has not been finalized. We will keep members posted as it proceeds.



You can have confidence in us

Dealer for
H2O Innovation
Sunrise Metal Shop
GBM
Marcland



We also carry glass from Artisan Printing of Vermont

Call us for all your Maple Needs

413.585.8820 413.320.2216

northhadleysugarshack.com
181 River Drive
North Hadley, MA 01035