

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

**SUGAR BUSH NEWS**


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*The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Maple Producers Association*


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**Update on Jugs**

The COVID-19 crisis has disrupted many supply chains, including materials needed for manufacturing plastic jugs. This delayed our warehouse's order from Hillside Plastics. There are plenty of smaller sizes available at the warehouse right now, but quarts are backordered. We'll send an email out as soon as they are back in stock. For all orders, please call (413-625-2900) or email (cwheeler@wheelview-farm.com) in advance so it will be ready when you arrive, and observe social distancing when you are at the warehouse.

**No Summer Picnic**

Our annual summer picnic has been cancelled, due to uncertainties concerning restrictions on gatherings due to the public health crisis. We're sorry we won't get to see everyone in August!

**Int'l Meetings Cancelled**

The annual NAMSC/IMSI meetings that were scheduled for Wisconsin in October have been cancelled as well. Next year's meetings will be in Niagra Falls, NY, and WI will hold theirs in 2022. This means that Massachusetts' turn to host has been pushed back to 2023. More details on that soon, and if you're interested in being part of the host committee to plan that event, please let us know!

**Big E? Not Sure Yet**

While many agricultural fairs have been cancelled, the Big E is still saying that the show will go on in West Springfield, September 18-October 4. If it does proceed there will certainly be some modifications to how business is done, but we will still need volunteers in our booth! Watch your email for updates as we have more information.

**Maple Weekend in the Fall**

Since Maple Weekend was so abruptly cancelled back in March, many sugarmakers missed out on the opportunity to open their sugarhouses to the public, teach visitors about sugaring, and sell pure maple products. This was the case throughout the maple region.

As a result, a number of states are working together to organize maple open houses in October. Details are still being finalized, but the idea would be to have October 10-11 be maple weekend here in Massachusetts, using the same process we've done in the past. The Association will do outreach and publicity and broadcast a list of sugarhouses that wish to welcome visitors that weekend. You won't be boiling sap, but you can still show people how it's done and sell some product! The weather may well be better, in fact, and since it won't be during the season you won't be running like crazy with your sugaring operation.

This is all contingent upon public health conditions and assemblage restrictions in October, of course, so watch your email for news on how we're proceeding.

**Maple Photos Needed**

The 2020 MA Agriculture in the Classroom calendar needs a maple photo for the March page. MMPA sponsors this page each year, and it always features a photo from a local sugarmaker. Please see the entry form at <https://www.massnrc.org/calendar/> and submit your best pictures!

**Online Maple Library**

Check out [www.mapleresearch.org](http://www.mapleresearch.org) for a comprehensive collection of maple research, practical skills guides, and other resources.

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## 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	2022	kwb1987@comcast.net	Whately
Howard Boyden – President	2022	boydenmaple@gmail.com	Conway
Patrick Delaney	2021	occasionalcreekmaple@gmail.com	Belchertown
Dave Gage	2023	gagesnowshoe@aol.com	Worthington
Dana Goodfield	2021*	danachevww@aol.com	Conway
Tom LeRay	2023*	t_jwleray56@verizon.net	Royalston
Jessie Porter	2023	catscratch30@hotmail.com	Pittsfield
J.P. Welch	2023*	welch@justameretreefarm.com	Worthington
Paul Zononi	2021	pzmapple@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	