

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

SUGAR BUSH NEWS



The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Maple Producers Association

Summer Picnic: August 1 in Worthington

We haven't had a Mass Maple event in person in 18 months - let's see if we all remember each other! The picnic will be hosted on Sunday, August 1 at the Worthington Rod and Gun Club. Food will be served at 2:00, and some nearby sugarhouses as well as one sugarmaker's brewery will be open for tours beforehand. See the enclosed flier for more details and send in the form, or sign up online at <https://www.massmaple.org/picnic/>

Jugs For Sale

The warehouse is well-stocked with jugs and shipping materials. For all orders, please call (413-625-2900) or email (cwheeler@wheelviewfarm.com) in advance so your order will be ready when you arrive. Paul Sena at Hickory Hill Maple in Worthington is now selling Mass Maple jugs as well. Contact Paul with your order at hickoryhillmaple@gmail.com or 413-238-5514.

International Meetings

The annual NAMSC/IMSI meetings will be held in Niagara Falls, NY, October 18-20. More information and registration is available at nysmaple.com. Massachusetts will be hosting in just two years, and we need help with the host committee! If you're interested in helping with registration, planning events, or other elements of the conference, please contact winton@massmaple.org.

Back to the Big E: Volunteers Needed!

After a year's hiatus, the Big E will be open again this year and we'll be dusting off the Mass Maple booth to provide fairgoers with the best food at the Fair! We've run the booth for decades, selling pure Massachusetts maple products, educating visitors about how maple syrup is made, and generating needed revenue to keep the Association operating.

The booth would not be able to function without volunteers. Last year we had more than 90 Mass Maple members and friends show up to help. Shifts are 9-3 and 3-9 every day from September 17-October 3. Volunteers get a free pass to the Big E and free parking, along with a \$10 stipend for a meal. It's a great way to support the Association, spend some time with other members, and help spread the word about Massachusetts maple products and the importance of supporting local farmers. And you get to eat as much cotton candy as you want!

If you'd like more information, or to sign up to volunteer, contact winton@massmaple.org.

Season Report: Meh

Those of you who responded to the season report request generally said you had 60-80% of a crop, with more darker grades than usual. That experience was echoed throughout the maple region. Look for more reports in the *June Maple Digest*.

Annual Meeting Workshop

If you missed Dr. Tim Perkins' workshop on high yield maple syrup production at the Mass Maple annual meeting, you can watch it online at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmzzjBzVX7I>

Massachusetts Maple Producers Association

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.

Keith Bardwell, Whately – Vice-President
Howard Boyden, Conway – President
Andrea Caluori, Ashfield
Dave Gage, Worthington
Tom LeRay, Royalston
Jessie Porter, Lenox
Gary Shaw, Buckland
JP Welch, Worthington
Paul Zononi, Williamsburg

Containers available at

Mass Maple Warehouse, Shelburne, 413-625-2900
Hickory Hill Maple, Worthington, 413-238-5514
Sweet Water Sugar House, Royalston, 978-249-3464

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Know Any New Sugarmakers?

So many people took up maple sugaring as a hobby during the pandemic that the *New York Times* wrote an article about the trend! Equipment dealers also said they spent a lot of time talking to new, small-scale producers. If you know people who started sugaring recently, please encourage them to join Mass Maple! Many hobbyists think the Association isn't for people at their scale, but we have many members with just a few taps and we offer educational resources that are helpful to producers of any size!

Got Maple Photos?

The 2021 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 for a comprehensive collection of maple research, practical skills guides, and other resources.



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Paul Sena - Owner

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