

MASSACHUSETTS SUGAR BUSH NEWS



The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Maple Producers Association

From the President

Well, according to the news, there may be light at the end of the COVID tunnel. Or is it a train? Let's not lower our guard just yet. Even with a vaccine, implementation will take months at best.

We must remember that we are producing a food product. For your own safety and the safety of others please implement all of the proper precautions as you open for the holidays and also the 2021 season. For those of us producing and packaging value added products, mask and gloves should be the norm. No one wants to be the "Typhoid Mary!"

Happy holidays and a successful session to you all.

Howard Boyden, President, MMPA

Updates on Mass Maple Jugs

After many years of selling Mass Maple Jugs LeAnn Mason of Red Bucket Sugar Shack in Worthington is ready to pass that task on to another dealer. Thanks to Leanne for the countless times she has dealt with breathless calls from an anxious sugarmaker who has hot syrup in their finisher and just realized they need a case of quart jugs immediately and it's Sunday evening but could she PLEASE???

Paul Sena, also in Worthington, will soon stock Mass Maple jugs for sale to members at Hickory Hill Farm, 159 Buffington Hill Road, 413-238-5514, hickoryhillmaple@gmail.com. Paul also carries fittings and other sugaring supplies. We'll let everyone know via email when he has jugs in stock.

Hillside Plastics has increased their jug prices. New rates are on the enclosed price list. The warehouse will continue selling jugs at the 2020 prices through December 31, so stock up now and save!

Annual Meeting Goes Virtual

The 2021 Mass Maple annual meeting will be held via Zoom on Saturday, January 16 beginning at

9:00. We will begin with a short business meeting, followed by a presentation from MDAR about COVID safety protocols we should all be aware of when making syrup and welcoming visitors to sugarmakers. The workshop will be "Keys to High Yield Maple Production," presented by Dr. Tim Perkins of the University of Vermont Proctor Maple Research Center. There will be times for Q&A following the presentation. Zoom information will be emailed to members in early January.

MMPA Board

Dana Goodfield will be leaving the Mass Maple Board after six years of service. Paul Zononi and Pat Delaney have each completed their first three-year terms and intend to run again for a second term. The board has nominated Andera Caluori, an Ashfield sugarmaker, to fill the vacant seat. If anyone else is interested in serving on the board, please contact winton@massmaple.org. The election will be held during our business meeting on January 16.

Season Kickoff

The season kickoff is scheduled for Friday, March 5 at 10:00 a.m. at Sweet Water Sugar House in Royalston. MDAR Commissioner John Lebeaux will tap the ceremonial first tree of the season and read the proclamation from Governor Baker declaring March to be Maple Month in Massachusetts. Look for announcements closer to that date about joining us, depending upon public safety rules at the time.

Maple Weekend

As in recent years, MMPA will coordinate Maple Weekend for the third weekend in March (20th-21st). We'll have the directory on our website and will promote the event through advertising and social media. As with everything else these days, participants are encouraged to pay close attention to state guidelines around assemblage and safety and assess their participation as we get closer to the event. If you'd like to be included in the online listings, please use the enclosed form to do so.

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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*	welchmaple1@gmail.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
Sweet Water Sugar House	56 Brown Rd, Royalston, MA	978-249-3464

Main Office

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