

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

SUGAR BUSH NEWS



The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Maple Producers Association

Annual Meeting & Workshop: Back in Person!

The 2021 Mass Maple annual meeting will be held at Mohawk High School in Buckland on Saturday, January 15, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The trade show of maple equipment vendors will begin at 9:00 a.m., along with coffee and snacks. The annual business meeting will begin at 10:45, and will include an election for a new board member. The lunch from Cliff's BBQ will begin at noon.

The after-lunch workshop, presented by Adam Wild, a specialist with the Cornell Maple Program, Director of Cornell University's Uihlein Maple Research Forest, will be:

Maximizing production through sustainable tapping

Optimal syrup production starts at the tree, and requires thinking beyond the current season. This session will focus on tapping practices that both maximize yield and ensure long-term sustainability of your sugarbush. Topics will include timing of tapping, taphole placement, taphole sanitation, and sap collection.

Please note that masks will be required for everyone, as per the policies of the Town of Buckland and Mohawk Schools.

Registration is \$25. Use the enclosed form or register online.

Mass Maple Jugs

As many of you are already aware, the supply of jugs for maple syrup is being impacted by supply chain challenges, just like most other products. Hillside

Plastics currently has a 10-month lead time for jugs. We have many on order.

At the same time, prices have increased significantly because of oil/plastics prices, as well as other external influences. Hillside changes their prices monthly. We try to keep our increases to just one or two a year, and have absorbed several of the monthly increases over the past year. Prices on the enclosed price list have not changed since the last version you were sent in June, but are subject to change at any time.

Both the warehouse and Paul Sena, in Worthington, are well stocked with jugs right now. Please see the enclosed pricelist for current prices, and call ahead to ensure that they have what you're looking for.



Season Kickoff

The season kickoff is scheduled for Friday, March 4 at 10:00 a.m. at Grand Maple Farms, 727 Moore Rd. in New Braintree. Hosts Justin and Paul Schur will offer tours of their sugarhouse where they boil sap from 900 taps on their 2x8 evaporator. We'll tap the ceremonial first tree of the season and read the proclamation from Governor Baker declaring March to be Maple Month in Massachusetts. Join us!

Maple Weekend

As in recent years, MMPA will coordinate Maple Weekend the third weekend in March (19th-20th). 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.

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

Main Office

Winton Pitcoff - Coordinator/Treasurer
413-628-3912
winton@massmaple.org
210 Park Ave., #305
Worcester, MA 01609
www.massmaple.org

Know Any New Sugarmakers?

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!

MMPA Board

Howard Boyden will be leaving the Mass Maple Board after six years of service. Keith Bardwell is completing his first three year term and is running for a second term. If anyone is interested in serving on the board, please contact winton@massmaple.org. The election will be held during our business meeting on January 15.

The Big E

Thanks to the dozens of members who volunteered, and especially to member Heather Labonte who managed the booth for the first time, the 2021 Big E was our most successful ever! If you missed it, don't fret - there will be plenty of volunteer opportunities next year!



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**NOW CARRYING
MASS MAPLE JUGS!**

Paul Sena - Owner

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