

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

SUGAR BUSH NEWS



The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Maple Producers Association

A Note from the President

Greetings, Massachusetts sugarmakers.

This is a good time to inspect your sugarbush to see how the trees are doing. Hopefully all are healthy. I know some areas in the state had suffered from Spongy Moth (gypsymoth) last year and hope the natural fungus that kills them off has taken effect. I recently traveled to Burlington, Vermont to attend the IMSI annual board meeting. In the Burlington area there is significant spongy moth damage. Entire mountainsides look bleak compared to the normal vivid green they should be. Another pest we need to be looking for is the Spotted Lanternfly. If you haven't heard about it, take a moment and Google it or see <https://www.massnrc.org/pests/>.

The association is preparing for our summer picnic and the annual Big E. Heather Labonte did a wonderful job last year and we are looking forward to another great year.

A very in-depth red maple tapping research project is currently being done by Abby van den Berg from UVM Proctor. It began by doing extensive field work and this season boiling sugar maple and red maple sap side-by-side under exact the same conditions. The remaining key element, that is beginning this month, is the tasting of the two syrups. I know there are many producers who avoid or choose not to tap reds, so I'm eager to see the final results that will be out in the near future.

I hope to see you at the picnic and at the Big E.

Keith Bardwell, President

Summer Picnic: August 7 in Shelburne

The annual summer picnic will be hosted on Sunday, August 7 at Hager's Farm Market. Food will be served at noon, and some nearby sugarhouses will be open for tours beginning at 9 a.m. See the enclosed flier for more details and send in the form, or sign up online at <https://www.massmaple.org/picnic/>

Volunteers Needed at the Big E!

We've run MMPA booth at the Big E 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 16-October 2. Volunteers get a free pass to the Big E and free parking, along with a \$15 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 maple cotton candy as you want!

If you'd like more information, or to sign up to volunteer, contact heather.labonte@comcast.net.

Annual Meeting Workshop

If you missed the "Maximizing production through sustainable tapping" workshop at the Mass Maple annual meeting, you can watch it online at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUfJETdVRvs>

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 contact a board member. The board relies on your input to keep them informed on issues of importance to you.

Keith Bardwell, Whately, President
Andrea Caluori, Ashfield
Dave Gage, Worthington
Bruce Hopper, Auburn
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
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Jugs For Sale

The warehouse is well-stocked with jugs and shipping materials. For 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 sells Mass Maple jugs as well. Contact Paul with your order at hickoryhillmaple@gmail.com or 413-238-5514.

Got Maple Photos?

The 2022 MA Agriculture in the Classroom calendar needs a maple photo for the March page. Please see the entry form at <https://www.massnrc.org/calendar/> and submit your best pictures!

International Meeting

The annual NAMSC meeting and maple conference will be held in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, October 26-29. More information and registration is available at wismaple.org. Massachusetts will be hosting next year and we need help with planning and preparation! If you're interested in helping with registration, planning events, or other elements of the conference, please contact winton@massmaple.org.



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