

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.

What is your carbon footprint? This is a question that will likely be asked of you someday. Like it or not, believe in it or not, it is a growing topic in our industry. Work is being done now to standardize a formula to use in determining your farm's carbon use. The one statement I have heard and feel good about is that maple syrup is the only sweetener that sequesters carbon. This is just one more thing that we as producers will need to adapt to in the future as climate change affects us in multiple ways.

The Big E was another productive year. Thank you to Heather Labonte as the booth manager and to all who helped and volunteered.

The NAMSC meeting was held in La Crosse, Wisconsin this past October and in 2023 will be held in Sturbridge, MA and hosted by our association. In order to have this be successful we are going to need many volunteers to help. We have begun to make plans and are going to need additional help from our members. Please consider volunteering for this event. It is held in a different state or province each year so this is not a long term commitment.

We are in the process of putting together the agenda for the annual meeting. This is a good opportunity to socialize among fellow members and a good way to get your questions answered. There will not be a mid-winter conference in New York this year. Many, throughout the years of either going on your own or taking the bus, know how educational it was. I'm confident that when you leave the annual meeting you will have learned something new to bring back to your own operation.

See you in January.

Keith Bardwell, President

Annual Meeting & Workshop: Back in Person!

The 2023 Mass Maple annual meeting will be held at Mohawk High School in Buckland on Saturday, January 14, 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 new board members. Lunch from Cliff's BBQ will begin at noon.

The after-lunch workshop, presented by Mark Isselhardt, Extension Maple Specialist at UVM, will be:

Ensuring Quality Syrup

The way you approach each step of the maple sugaring process can mean the difference between prize-winning syrup and off-flavored unsaleable products. This workshop will follow the process from the tree to the bottle, considering the steps that represent the best opportunities to enhance the quality of your syrup, as well as those that pose the greatest risk to your final product.

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

Season Kickoff

The season kickoff is scheduled for Friday, March 3 at 10:00 a.m. at Maple Corner Farm in Granville. The Ripley Family will offer tours and show off their new sugarhouse. We'll tap the ceremonial first tree of the season and read the proclamation from Governor Healey declaring March to be Maple Month in Massachusetts. Join us!

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

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Maple Weekend

As in recent years, MMPA will coordinate Maple Weekend the third weekend in March (18th-19th). We'll have the directory on our website and will promote the event through advertising and social media. If you'd like to be included in the online listings, please use the enclosed form.

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.

Seeking Board Members

At least two new Mass Maple board members will be elected at the annual meeting in January. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact winton@massmaple.org.



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