

The Gathering Tank

A Newsletter of the New Hampshire Maple Producers Association, Inc.

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Join Us for the Annual NHMPA Summer Meeting

The NHMPA will hold its annual summer meeting on Saturday, July 14th at the Rocks Estate in Bethlehem, NH. Registration begins at 9:00am with coffee and doughnuts. President Jim Fadden will open the meeting at 10:00am. In the morning, topics concerning the NHMPA and the NH maple industry will be covered, including the 2018 NAMSC/IMSI convention update, FISMA regulations, fair, container, and website updates. After lunch, will be hands-on learning and relocating items in the NH Maple Museum.



Directions from North or South

Take I-93 to exit 40

Take Route 302 East for 1/2 mile

Turn right after the Rocks Sign

Follow signs to parking area and program center.

For GPS: Use either 4 Christmas Tree Lane or Glessner Road, Bethlehem

The summer meeting is a great chance for NH sugar makers to get-to-know each other. Invite those you know who are new to sugar making to attend.

The cost is \$12 per person and includes a barbeque lunch, including items like hamburgers, chicken, hot dogs, corn on the cob, salads, watermelon and all the fixings. Pre-registration is appreciated to ensure enough food for all.

NH Maple Month Contests Success

This year, the NHMPA added 2 new contests to encourage public participation in NH Maple Month. The #NHmaple photo contest, now in its second year, saw a 60% increase in participation. The kid-friendly activity sheet was not only a value-add at open houses, but also saw ~30 completed contest submissions. The NH Maple Passport contest had over 120 completed passports totaling ~650 sugar house visits! Many prizes were donated by NH companies: the Maple Nut Kitchen, Hutchinson's Candy and The Candy Bar. Be sure to say thank you when you see them!



Carlisle Award Updates

Honoring the year's best maple syrup is no small task. Jim will speak about contest updates at the Summer Meeting. Some highlights are:

- Qualified entries - NH syrup entries must be judged in a participating NH state fair
- The top 3 placements from NHMPA members at each fair will be recognized by the NHMPA as qualified entries
- Contestants are responsible for storing their qualified samples until the Winter meeting
- Anyone engaging in non-sportsmanship-like behavior may be disqualified

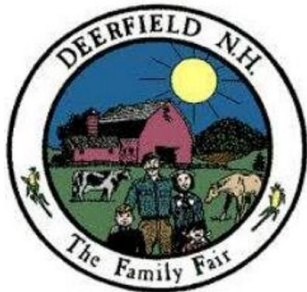
A full list of rules and requirements will be posted on the website shortly.

From the President

The arrival of long days and hot weather signals summer meeting time for the NHMPA. This year, we're excited that the Rocks Estate will host the event and we look forward to visiting the NH Maple Museum to get a hands-on experience with the Charlie Stewart collection. Information on the day's events are posted within the newsletter, so mark your calendar for July 14 and we'll see you there. - Jim Fadden



Aug 31 - Sept 3



Sept 27 - 30

**THE
BIG E**
Sept 14 - 30

2018 Fair Season Update

Fair season is right around the corner! And NHMPA Fair Manager, Miranda Milano, wants you! Fairs help promote the NH maple sugaring industry and sell NHMPA members' products to a large audience.

Volunteers are needed for all three fairs. Visitors love getting to meet the folks responsible for making their favorite maple products. Working the booth is a great way to find new customers for your sugar house as those personal interactions make all the difference! Even if you don't have the time to volunteer, there's always a need for maple product for the booth. In addition to maple syrup, maple cream, sugars, seasoning, candies and other value-added or interesting products are welcome. Pre-packaged items are greatly appreciated.

Contact Miranda at Maple Ridge Sugar House at 603-470-7574 for more information. If you've volunteered in the past but haven't heard from Miranda this year, please reach out.

Did you know?

Volunteer positions for The Big E are paid positions. Volunteers who can stay 2-4 days at a time are critical to the success of the NHMPA booth. Overnight hotel accommodations are provided for those working multiple days.

NH Maple Producers Association

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www.nhmapleproducers.com

Editor, The Gathering Tank—Brenda Noiseux

NHMPA Board of Directors

Jim Fadden - President	Chris Olsen
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Steve Roberge - Secretary	
Dave Kemp - International Delegate	



2018 NAMSC/IMSI Conference Planning Update

October 26-29, 2018 Courtyard Marriot, Concord, NH

In October 2018, the NHMPA will be hosting the North American Maple Syrup Council (NAMSC) and International Maple Syrup Institute (IMSI) annual meetings. At this convention, you're invited to attend the business meetings, which will bring you up-to-date on maple research and other advancements in the maple world. At the technical educational sessions, conducted by world experts, you'll learn new techniques to improve your operation and increase production. Plus, we will have a vendor room with all the prominent maple vendors from around the maple world, an artifact room and both a photo and syrup contest that all attendees are encouraged to participate in.

Plans are well underway for the convention. Registrations are coming in, vendor spaces for the trade show are nearly sold out, tour stops have been outlined, technical sessions are being worked on and the menus are complete. The committee is now working on advertisers for the program book. We are hoping that the members of the Association will help us by purchasing a business card ad for the special price of \$25.00. All those that choose to advertise will get a program book. If you haven't been able to volunteer for the planning committee, placing an ad is another great way to show your support.

Don't need an ad, but still want to help? Items are still be accepted for the silent auction and volunteers are needed during the conference as well. Reach out to the Planning Committee for more information.

Yes! I want to place an ad in the Conference Program

Sugar House _____

Contact Name _____

E-Mail: _____

☐ I have included my business card ☐ I will send you my business card

Return this form and a \$25 check made out to NHMPA 2018 Conference ***no later than August 1st*** by either the giving the form and check to any planning committee members at the summer meeting or mailing the form and check to: Mary Ellen MacCoy, PO Box 240, Canterbury, NH 03324.

Contact the 2018 NAMSC/IMSI Conference Planning Committee

Dale Smith
dale.smith@amphenol-tcs.com

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lbascom48@gmail.com

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Dave & Edi Kemp
david.kemp7@myfairpoint.net

Barbara & Don Lassonde
barbaralassonde@aol.com

Don't have access to a computer, but would like to help? Call Roy and Mary Ellen at 783-4468.



Winner of the 2018 Tucker Mountain Challenge, the 4th grade classroom at Lincoln Street School.

2018 Tucker Mountain Challenge

This year, 10 schools submitted competed for a chance to win the \$2000 prize. With an average of 25 students per school, this year's program gave approximately 250 students a hands-on experience with NH's maple sugaring tradition. Participants had to submit a quart of the breakfast condiment in April, which went through a blind taste test. The top three scoring samples were judged again at the New Hampshire Future Farmers of America meeting and a winner was selected. News of the contest also spread nationwide as a story about the winners was published in the Seattle Times and U.S. News & World Reports.

The NHMPA is a proud sponsor of the Tucker Mountain Challenge, this year organized by Debbi Cox at NH Ag in the Classroom. A hands-on maple sugaring experience makes lifelong NH maple fans. Consider becoming a school mentor next year to help us reach even more students.

Find more great photos of this year's competition on the NH Agriculture in the Classroom's Facebook page.



Alleviating Financial Barriers To Participation

Additionally, there was a complementary equipment grant program which awarded 5 grants to help reduce financial costs for schools who wanted to participate. Funding for the mini grant program came from a Farm Credit East Ag Enhancement grant. The mini-grant program will continue for one more year but beyond that, it will depend on several factors, including funding and the ability to purchase equipment at a discounted cost.





Summer Meeting Registration Form

Name _____

Sugar House Name _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

of people attending _____ X \$12 per person for lunch

Check enclosed for \$ _____

*Please mail to NHMPA, PO Box 7, North Woodstock, NH 03262 **no later than July 7th.***

NEW! 2018 Fall Foliage & Mail Order Sign-ups

In order to help NHMPA promote their products year-round, the NHMPA would like to update the NH Maple Producers website to include NHMPA members that want to promote availability during the fall foliage season. Additionally, plans include a filter option for those NHMPA member who would like to promote mail order sales, especially for the holiday season. Similar to NH Maple Month, you'll be able to add your details to your NHMPA website listing.

*If you're interested, fill out the form below and return it to Nick Kosko, 141 Wakefield Rd, Union, NH 03887 **no later than August 15th.** The program will only run if at least 20 members sign up.*

Name _____

Sugar House Name _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Open for Fall Foliage (Y/N) _____

Available for Mail Order Sales (Y/N) _____

Did you know?

NH hosts millions of visitors each Fall Foliage season for leaf peeping. In 2017, the New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism Development and Governor Chris Sununu announced that the state was expecting approximately 9.75 million visitors who would spend \$1.5 billion during the fall season.



North Woodstock, NH 03262
P.O. Box 7
New Hampshire
Maple Producers
Association, Inc.



NHMPA Sugar House Snapshots

Consumers love getting to know their NH sugar makers and that connection can lead to loyal customers. To boost this effort, the NHMPA would like to highlight NH sugar makers on our social media.

Open to all NHMPA members, to participate, write a 100-word blurb about yourself and your maple sugaring operation. Think about what makes your sugar house unique, maybe a fun story or an interesting connection. Also include a candid photo from of some aspect of maple sugaring (a photo of the sugar house, making maple product, kids helping, etc.). Email both to Brenda at nhmpacontest@gmail.com.



Photo from Somero Farm

The NHMPA is dedicated to raising awareness of NH's maple sugaring industry and proud maple tradition. With articles in The Maple News, press releases, social media, and more, the NHMPA works throughout the year to keep NH maple on the minds of the public.