

The Gathering Tank

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

Volume 23, Issue 2

December 2018

Join Us for the Annual NHMPA Winter Meeting

In preparation of the 2019 maple sugaring season, the NHMPA will hold its winter meeting on Saturday, January 12th at The Common Man restaurant in Plymouth, NH.

Registration begins at 8am and the meeting starts at 9am. Throughout the day, speakers will cover topics affecting the maple industry as well as those important to the continued growth and success of the NHMPA and its members. It will include reports on ongoing NHMPA initiatives and the Carlisle Award.

The meeting is a great chance for NH sugar makers to get to know each other and learn about the NHMPA. Invite those you know those who are new to sugar making to attend.

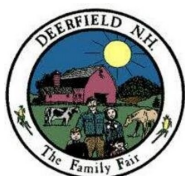
Sign up using the form in the back of this newsletter.



2018 Fair Season Update

The preliminary data shows that the fairs were profitable again this year. All three fairs had successful outcomes, and we appreciate everyone's effort.

If you would like to help at the fairs or be part of the fair committee, please contact the board.



Carlisle Award Submissions

Calling all entries for the Carlisle Award for best NH maple syrup. This is your chance to highlight the high quality of NH maple syrup!

- Contestants must have had their syrup placed in the top 3 placements from NHMPA members at a participating 2018 NH state fair to be recognized by the NHMPA as qualified entry
- Contestants must bring their stored, qualified sample to the 2019 Winter meeting between 8-9am for final judging.

Anyone engaging in non-sportsmanship-like behavior may be disqualified.

Seasons Greetings

With the loss of many great past leaders of our association, it has been a tough month for our maple community. Let's make sure to remember everyone this holiday season that has touched our lives.

We wish everyone a happy holiday season and a great maple season.

- From NHMPA Board of Directors

NHMPA Board of Directors, 2018 Electronic Vote Log

1/30/18

Motion to nominate the following slate of candidates to the Executive Board of NH Maple Producers Association: Jim Fadden, President; Nick Kosko, Vice President; Steven Roberge, Secretary.

Motion made by Dale Smith, seconded by Nick Kosko. Dale Smith, Chris Olsen, Bill Cheney, Dave Kemp vote yes. Abstaining from voting for Vice President but approving the rest of the slate, Nick Kosko. Abstaining from voting for Secretary but approving the rest of the slate, Steven Roberge. Motion passes.

Motion to nominate Dale Smith Treasurer on the Executive Board of NH Maple Producers Association.

Motion made by Nick Kosko, seconded by Dave Kemp. Nick Kosko, Dave Kemp, Chris Olsen, Bill Cheney, Steven Roberge vote yes. Abstaining, Dale Smith. Motion Passes

2/7/18

Motion to approve the minutes from the 2018 annual meeting. Motion made by Dale Smith, seconded by Nick Kosko. Dale Smith, Nick Kosko, Chris Olsen, Bill Cheney, Steven Roberge. Dave Kemp did not vote. Motion passes.

10/3/2018

Motion to provide Ag in the Classroom \$2000 towards their maple contest prize money. Motion made by Dale Smith, seconded by Dave Kemp. Dale Smith, Dave Kemp, Nick Kosko, Steve Roberge, Bill Cheney, Chris Olsen vote yes. Motion passes.

NH Maple Producers Association

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Union, NH 03887

www.nhmapleproducers.com

Editor, The Gathering Tank—Brenda Noiseux

NHMPA Board of Directors

Jim Fadden - President	Chris Olsen
Nick Kosko - Vice President	Bill Cheney
Dale Smith - Treasurer	David Kemp
Steve Roberge - Secretary	

Congratulations to the 2018 Felker Winners

This year, we had great participation in the Walter A. Felker Program. Entries came in from all over the state and all age groups. New this year, participants were not required to produce any syrup. Instead, the program asked that they do a project on anything maple-related and submit an essay with it. The change was made to be purposely broad to allow NH youth to think outside of the box. Three cash prizes were offered: \$300 for first place, \$150 for second place, and \$50 for third place.



The 2018 Walter A. Felker Memorial Award Program winners are

1st Place: Elsa Hannu age 11 from New Ipswich

2nd Place: Marliese Baer age 16 from Elkins

3rd Place: Jack Mello age 10 from Milford

As we look to the future of sugaring, we need to encourage NH youth to get involved in all aspects of the maple industry. Information about the program is available on the NH Maple Producers website, and the 2019 application will be posted in early 2019.

Container update

The containers have had a record year in sales. Starting 2018 with an already depleting supply and long lead times from the manufacturer made for a challenging year. We have worked with the manufacturer and they plan on having all our ordered containers delivered by end of year. More containers are being added to the reserve as a back up in case of future supply issues. We also have on hand NHMPA cream containers and are looking to have more NHMPA candy boxes printed.

If there is ever a request for certain type of containers, please reach out, and we can evaluate if it would be beneficial to have them printed with NHMPA logo. If you ever have any concerns about containers, feel free to reach out to Container Chair Nick Kosko.



Did you know?

The NHMPA is on social media via Facebook and Twitter working throughout the year to keep connecting with NH maple fans and keeping NH maple on the minds of the public through recipes, photos, news articles, and more.



Planning Committee Recap of the 2018 NAMSC/IMSI Conference

The 2018 Conference on October 26-29, 2018 in Concord, NH was the fourth time NH has hosted the NAMSC and IMSI joint annual meeting; the opportunity is available only every 16 years or so. The event required more than a year and a half of intense planning from committee members Edie and Dave Kemp, Don and Barbara Lassonde, Larry Moore, Jeff Moore, Liz Bascom, Rusty and Aggie Colby, Sue and Brian Folsom, Roy and Mary Ellen Hutchinson and Dale Smith.

This year's program booklet was dedicated to Hank Peterson. A few extra booklets will be available for free at the Winter NHMPA meeting. They contain information on the IMSI and NAMSC and are a great keepsake.

The conference was attended by more than 240 people including maple producers, scientists, equipment suppliers, and people interested in the maple industry. All of the US maple producing states were represented as well as all maple producing provinces in Canada. There were meetings to attend so all could understand what the two organizations are doing for the maple world.

Technical sessions included discussion topics from the UVM Proctor Research Center, updates on current Asian Longhorn beetle infestations, strategies to mitigate climate change on sap production, maple forest health after timber harvesting, three generations of an old-time sugarhouse, a deep dive into the food safety and modernization act and how it impacts sugar makers, agritourism, maple finance, and business viability.

Of special note was a maple artifact room which included items from the Charlie Stewart collection, a spile collection from Mike Girard, a syrup tin collection from Tom Lacromb, and an original gas-powered tapper from the Moore's. It was an opportunity for maple enthusiasts to see items they would not see elsewhere.



Thanks 2018 NAMSC/IMSI Conference Planning Committee for all your hard work!

Directors & Volunteers Wanted

Have you ever thought about volunteering for the NHMPA but weren't sure where to start? Whether you're a multi-generational producer or just starting out, the association needs you! The NHMPA is dedicated to raising awareness of NH's great maple tradition, promoting education and supporting the efforts of our maple producers. Contact Nick Kosko to learn about the volunteer opportunities available.

The Annual IMSI/NAMSC Meetings

The joint-annual meeting of the International Maple Syrup Institute (IMSI) and the North American Maple Syrup Council (NAMSC) was held October 26th-29th in Concord, NH. The NHMPA delegate representative was David Kemp.



This is a short synopsis of what has transpired this past year. The ISMI has already posted a report on their website under Resources, and it is anticipated that the Maple Digest will have the NAMSC report.

IMSI Highlights

Growth in maple syrup production capacity in the U.S. is estimated at one million taps. Maple equipment vendors reported that new maple equipment bookings are extending into 2019. Tariffs imposed by the U.S. on aluminum and steel are putting some upward pressure on prices of maple equipment containing these materials.

Maple packers report that the demand for maple syrup and other real maple products remains very good and is gradually increasing both in North America and overseas. Use of real maple syrup in a variety of food products is growing and is noticeable in retail outlets both in the United States and Canada. Profit margins, however, are thin in some circumstance, and the marketplace is very competitive. Prices for packaging are increasing significantly.

Added Sugar: The FDA will be delivering revised draft guidance early in 2019 that would remove the Added Sugar line item requirement from some single-ingredient products such as maple syrup and honey.

The United States Department of Agriculture is currently embarking on a review of Dietary Guidelines for Food Products. Since this review and new dietary guidelines could ultimately have significant implications for the maple syrup industry, the IMSI has been monitoring arrangements for the review closely.

Maple Grading Schools and Quality Assurance Training: The IMSI-sponsored grading school delivered a very successful school in Keene, NH in October 2018 prior to the conference. A school is planned in conjunction with the NAMSC-IMSI Annual Conference in Duluth, MI in October 2019.

New committees and initiatives: IMSI Commission or Study Group has been greenlit to review the IMSI's Mandate and make recommendations for future investments. A U.S. Maple Industry Alliance comprised of state maple association representatives has been put in place to help assist the IMSI in monitoring and addressing issues which may emerge from time to time in the United States. IMSI Social Media Initiative continues to make progress but has had a recent change in the chair of the team.

Reminder

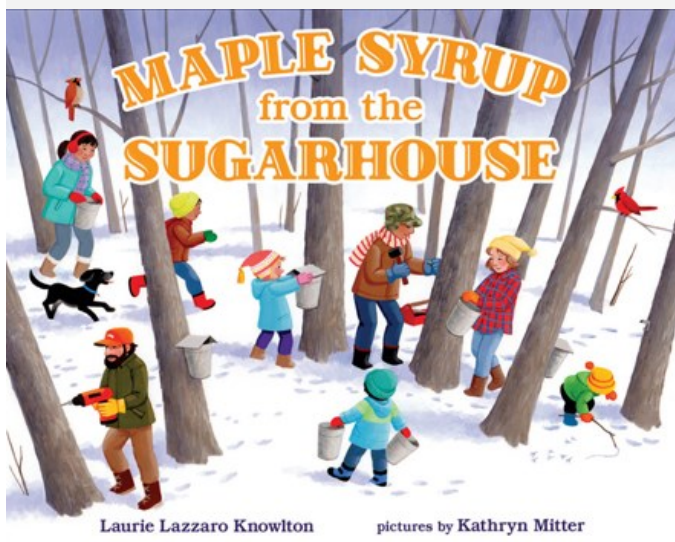
At the 2018 NHMPA Winter Meeting, NHMPA members approved a change in annual membership fees. The membership fee of \$40 (up from \$35) and now includes a \$5 donation to the NH Maple Museum.





NH Maple Sugaring Education Partners – NHAITC

Each year, NHAITC hosts its Agricultural Literacy Program. The selected book is read by volunteers in elementary school classrooms around the state. This year's book, *Maple Syrup from the Sugarhouse*, follows the tale of Kelsey as she and her family and friends collect sap to turn into syrup.



The program is looking for sponsors

General Sponsor: \$250

Book Sponsor: \$125

Classroom Reader: \$8

General and Book Sponsors are included on all promotional flyers, have their sugarhouse name/logo each book's bookplate and noted in the Educators' Resource Guide included with each book.

Sponsorships need to be received by Dec. 21st. check payable to NHAITC to: New Hampshire Agriculture in the Classroom, 295 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, NH 03301.

Tucker Mountain Challenge

Not every NH student has a maple tree at home to tap, so what if maple education was a part of the classroom experience? The Tucker Mountain Challenge provides incentives for schools and educators to help them explore hands-on maple sugaring projects within their classrooms. Reaching over 120 students in 2018, the program continues forging a connection between NH's young people and our state's rich maple tradition. If you'd like to become a school mentor, please contact NHAITC.



Maple Equipment Grants

For the second year in a row, NHAITC is taking applications for its Maple Equipment Grant program. The program helps reduce the financial burden for K12 educators who want to do hands-on maple sugaring education in their classrooms. Recipients are required enter the Tucker Mountain Challenge competition. The deadline to apply was Dec. 15th.

Did you know?

NHAITC offers additional free maple education resources for K12 educators. *Tapping in the Maple Tradition* is a set of lesson plans, videos and posters all free of charge to NH educators and available on the NHAITC website.





2019 Application for Membership

When you become a member of the NH Maple Producers Association you're joining with sugar makers across the state to celebrate NH's proud maple tradition. Benefits of being a NHMPA member included, but are not limited to:

A listing for your sugar house on the NHMPA website	Semi-annual NHMPA newsletter, The Gathering Tank	Opportunity to enter your syrup into the Carlisle Award
Free publicity for NH Maple Weekend	Quarterly issues of The Maple Syrup Digest	Opportunity to purchase membership signs, jugs, grading cards & cookbooks

Name _____

Sugar House Name _____

Physical Location of Sugar House _____

Mailing Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

of taps _____ (Important for grant purposes)

Annual dues January 1 to December 31, 2019

(includes a \$5 donation to the NH Maple Museum) \$40.00

Annual Winter Meeting Lunch Ticket _____ people X \$10.00 \$ _____

Official outdoor metal NHMPA Membership sign @ \$38.00 each \$ _____

(Available for pick up at annual meeting)

Maple News 10-issue subscription @ \$28.00 \$ _____

Are you currently receiving the Maple Syrup Digest? Yes _____ No _____

Checks to be made out to NHMPA and mailed to 141 Wakefield Road, Union, NH 03887.

Membership applications can also be submitted online at www.nhmapleproducers.com where we accept credit cards.



NH Maple Month 2019

The NHMPA will be celebrating our 24th Annual Maple Weekend on March 23 & 24, 2019 and NH Maple Month on weekends from March 9th through the 31st.



Participation is optional. If you wish to take part, we encourage you to keep your event manageable for your operation. You may sign up for all four weekends or only one; choose the weekend(s) that work best for you. The public looks forward to NH Maple Month and are eager to plan their visits. If you are participating, update the details on your hours, tours, and other offerings early.

Important note: All contact information on this form is for public use to help visitors contact you.

Sugar House Name _____

Maple Producer's Name _____

Physical Address of SUGAR HOUSE _____

Town _____ **Zip** _____ **Region** _____

Phone _____ **Email/Website** _____

Facebook _____ **Twitter** _____

Mar 9-10 open hours on Sat _____ Sun _____

Mar 16-17 open hours on Sat _____ Sun _____

Mar 23-24 (NH Maple Weekend) open hours on Sat _____ Sun _____

Mar 30-31 open hours on Sat _____ Sun _____

Please give a brief description of what you will be offering during Maple Sugaring Month (demonstrations, tours, products you sell, samples, doughnuts & coffee, etc.) and specify any charges for activities. If an event is special to one weekend, please note.

☐ Tours ☐ Samples ☐ Demonstrations
