

# The Gathering Tank

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

Volume 24, Issue 2

December 2019

## Join Us for the Annual NHMPA Winter Meeting

In preparation of the 2020 maple sugaring season, the NHMPA will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, January 25th from 8:30am to 3pm at The Common Man Inn & Spa in Plymouth, NH.

Registration begins at 8:30 am 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 agenda and signup form are in the back of this newsletter. Alternatively, you can sign up online at [www.nhmapleproducers.com](http://www.nhmapleproducers.com). Tickets for the meeting are \$20 per person, which include lunch.

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 who are new to sugar making to attend.



## Carlisle Entries

All entries for the Carlisle Award for best NH maple syrup are judged at the winter meeting. This is your chance to highlight the high quality of your sugar house's maple syrup!

- Contestants must have had their syrup place in the top 3 placements from NHMPA members at a participating 2019 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 8:30-9am for final judging.

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

## Directions to The Common Man Inn & Spa (Plymouth)

The Common Man Inn and Spa in Plymouth is located at 231 Main St, Plymouth, NH 03264.

From Interstate 93

- Take exit 26 for NH-25/NH-3A toward US-3/Plymouth/Rumney
- Merge onto NH-3A S
- Use the right lane to take the US-3 ramp to Plymouth
- Turn right onto US-3 S
- Turn left onto Foster St

*The Common Man will be on the left*

## President's Comments

Thank you to all the members for a great year! I hope you can take some time and enjoy the holiday season as we prepare for another maple season. I hope we all have a great season.

-Nick Kosko

## 2019 Fair Recap



This year the NHMPA presence at the Deerfield Fair saw some large changes focused around education and sales. The sugar house itself was split into two sections, one for education and one for sales. This change was very successful and made the Deerfield Fair Board very happy. Sales were strong even with increased competition on the fair grounds.

Thanks to all the volunteers who made the Deerfield Fair happen this year! The fairs are always a challenge and always in need of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer and/or sell product, don't hesitate to reach out to the fair committee chair.



## 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 NHMPA is on social media! With over 3500 followers on Facebook and 1000 on Twitter, the association keeps connecting with NH maple fans year round. From recipes to news, sharing the NHMPA social media posts are an easy way to create content for your own sugar house pages.



## NH Maple Producers Association

141 Wakefield Road  
Union, NH 03887

[www.nhmapleproducers.com](http://www.nhmapleproducers.com)

Editor, The Gathering Tank-Brenda Noiseux

## NHMPA Board of Directors

Nick Kosko - President  
Dale Smith - Vice President  
Sue Folsom - Treasurer  
Dave Kemp

Bill Cheney  
Darrell Fisk  
Chris Olsen  
Win van Mourik



## 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 in Duluth, MN on October 21-24, 2020. The NHMPA delegate was David Kemp. This is a short synopsis of what has transpired this past year. The IMSI usually posts the meeting summaries on their website under News > Meeting Summaries. The complete meeting minutes for the NAMSC Annual meeting have been printed in the December issue of the Maple Digest.

### IMSI Highlights

- How to Improve Syrup Quality - An open discussion was held regarding the ongoing challenges with issues in the variations of maple syrup and the room for improvement. The impact of selling bad tasting syrup to consumers is unknown and the board resolved to take up the topic at the next board meeting.
- IMSI Grading School - In 2018, the grading school was very popular with over 41 classes attended by 562 producers. The Centre's Acer extension also presented 77 conferences and courses to an estimated 6100 participants. Discussions regarding ways to expand the program and challenges surrounding the acceptable range of maple flavors were held.
- Regulatory updates - The IMSI has retained the services of the Normandy Group in Washington, DC for monitoring and lobbying. The group will also inform the IMSI of pending regulations or activities that could present opportunities or pose a problem for the maple industry. It is hoped that the service will help the IMSI and its members stay informed and proactive.
- FDA added sugar label guidance - Although the FDA has published non-binding guidance that the phrase "added sugar" will not be required on the nutrition facts label, there is still uncertainty about where and how the daily value percentage will be located and perceived by consumers. The IMSI are awaiting a response and will inform members of the outcome and recommended action.

### NAMSC Highlights

- The Maple Research and Education Fund is open to member associations for grants of up to \$5,000 to support their educational projects designed to help maple producers make high-quality maple products.
- Updates to the Maple Manual are expected to be completed in late 2021. It is made possible by an ACER Grant supporting Dr. Timothy Perkins's work at the UVM Proctor Maple Research Center.
- Maple Digest supplements will be included through 2019-20. Topics to include Sugarbush Mapping, Hiring a Consultant Forester, and more.
- Off-flavored kits are being considered by the NAMSC Education Committee. The next kit may focus on chemical off-flavors, such as defoamers and cleaning agents.
- Sugar house gray water regulations are increasing as gray water from cleaning ROs, tanks and pans are being considered as waste water.
- NAMSC Distinguished Service Award went to Avar and Jean Bentley of Westchester Station, Nova Scotia. The 2020 inductees into the Maple Hall of Fame are Joe Polak of Maple Hollow, Merrill, WI and Ray Bonenberg of Mapleside, Pembroke, ON.



# Get Ready for the 2020 Maple Sugaring Season

## Container Updates

### Jugs

Bacon Jug offered the association a discount on early ordering, so orders were placed at the end of May by our container dealers. Bacon starting delivering containers in the middle of August. The whole process went very well.

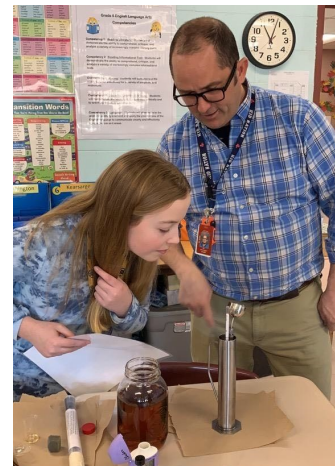
### Candy and maple cream containers

The NHMPA is stocking 1.4oz. and 1.5oz. maple candy boxes and ½lb. and 1lb. maple cream containers at the NHMPA reserve trailer. The NHMPA reserve is located at Sunnyside Maples. Contact them directly for your packaging needs for these items.

## Announcements in Jan/Feb

As you prepare for the 2020 maple sugaring season, be on the lookout for the following important announcements and dates.

- Syrup Hydrometer Clinics hosted by NH Dept of Agriculture, Division of Regulatory Services
- NHMPA Regional Member Meetings
- Special newspaper advertising rates for NHMPA members for 2020 NH Maple Month
- NHMPA sponsored contests for 2020 NH Maple Weekend and NH Maple Month
- The annual NH governor's maple tree tapping



## Tucker Mountain Challenge

Maple education is a key part of the NHMPA's mission. The Tucker Mountain Challenge provides a way to reach hundreds of NH school children each year. Sponsored primarily by the NH Agriculture in the Classroom (NHAITC) and the NHMPA, in 2019, over 850 K-12 students were directly involved in hands-on maple sugaring projects across the state! Additionally, many of these classes offered tours to other classes at their school expanding the program's reach.

Creating a memorable connection between NH's young people and our state's rich maple tradition is a fantastic way to ensure a bright future for NH's maple sugaring industry. Debbi Cox at NHAITC is always looking for maple producers who are willing to answer questions that arise from teachers and students during the process. If you're willing to become a resource, please reach out to her.

# NH Maple Month 2020

The NHMPA will be celebrating our 25th Annual Maple Weekend on March 21 & 22, 2020 and NH Maple Month on weekends from March 7th through the 29th.

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. You can also update your sugar house information and events on your member profile on the NH Maple Producers website.

*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 7-8      open hours on Sat \_\_\_\_\_ Sun \_\_\_\_\_

Mar 13-14    open hours on Sat \_\_\_\_\_ Sun \_\_\_\_\_

Mar 21-22 (NH Maple Weekend)    open hours on Sat \_\_\_\_\_ Sun \_\_\_\_\_

Mar 28-29    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

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# 2020 NHMPA Annual Winter Meeting

*Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 8:30am—3pm*

*Held at the Common Man Inn & Spa, 231 Main St, Plymouth,*

## AGENDA

**8:30 - 9:00AM** Registration & Coffee

**9:00AM** Welcome/Pledge/Moment of Silence - **President Nick Kosko**

**9:05AM** Welcome words from **Congressman Chris Pappas** (invited)

**9:15AM** Welcome from **Commissioner of NH Agriculture Shawn Jasper**

**9:30AM** NH Agriculture in the Classroom update - **Debbi Cox**

**9:45AM** Maple Museum update - **Nigel Manley & Sue Folsom**

**10:00AM** NHMPA Business Meeting  
Treasurer's report - **Sue Folsom**  
Container report- **Bill Cheney**  
Promotion report - **Win van Mourik & Nick Kosko**  
Fair & The Big E report - **Darrel Fiske & Nick Kosko**  
State of the Association - **Nick Kosko**  
Proposed By-laws change  
Election of Directors - **Nick Kosko**

**11:15AM** International Maple Syrup Institute - **President Pam Greene**

**12:00PM** Lunch

**1:00PM** Reaching Young Audiences - **Will Stewart, Executive Director, Stay Work Play**

**1:45PM** Your Marketing Tool: The NHMPA website - **Win van Mourik**

**2:30PM** Carlisle Award - **Steve Roberge**

**2:50PM** Any Additional Business

**3:00PM** Adjourn



## 2020 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, 20120

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

\$40.00

Annual Winter Meeting Lunch Ticket \_\_\_\_\_ people X \$20.00

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks to be made out to NHMPA and mailed c/o Sue Folsom, 130 Candia Rd, Chester NH 03036. Membership applications can also be submitted online at [www.nhmapleproducers.com](http://www.nhmapleproducers.com) where we accept credit cards.

Union, NH 03887  
141 Wakefield Rd  
New Hampshire  
Maple Producers  
Association, Inc.

## Congratulations to the 2019 Felker Winners

Getting NH youth involved with our rich maple sugaring tradition is the aim of the NHMPA-sponsored Walter A. Felker Memorial Award. The contest is open to all NH youth ages 16 and younger. Contestants are asked to create a project on anything maple-related and submit an essay with it.

The winner of this year's Felker Award is Trevor Gaudet. Trevor's project was a children's book about maple sugaring with his Pop. The book was both written and illustrated by Trevor. Second place went to William Pierce and Third place Elle Lavalliere. The NHMPA press release about the winners was also picked up by the Associated Press.



*More Information about the program is available at [www.nhmapleproducers.com](http://www.nhmapleproducers.com).*