

The Gathering Tank

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

Volume 25, Issue 3

December 2020

Reminder: NHMPA memberships renew in January. Consider renewing yours today!

NH Seal of Quality

A new fair participation requirement

On October 25, 2020 the NHMPA Board of Directors voted unanimously to require all producers who wish to sell their syrup at a NH State Fair to be a current member of the NH Seal of Quality Program.

This program is operated by the NH Department of Agriculture which is a voluntary program that provides enhanced quality standards for farm products. Essentially the guidance for the program is all normal maple industry Best Practices.

Although the Board feels it's important for all syrup sold at fairs in particular, it is also something we strongly encourage all producers to consider to assure their customers they are operating their sugarhouse under the best industry standards.

In order to assist members become familiar with the program, the Department of Agriculture will be hosting a Zoom presentation for anyone to join, learn the basics and ask questions. The outline of what will be covered is listed below and will be presented by Shane Conlin.

Save the Date May 22

NHMPA Annual Meeting

The NHMPA will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, May 22nd at The Common Man Inn & Spa in Plymouth, NH.

Carlisle Update

An attempt at normalcy was made by your board in continuing the Carlisle award. The loss of all State Fairs to qualify samples for judging necessitated, what will hopefully be a one-year rules change.

The award presentation will be held at the NHMPA annual meeting in May.

A well deserved Thank You! to Steve Roberge for his willingness to put together a judging panel for this event on short notice.

Seal of Quality Zoom Meeting Wednesday Jan 13, 2021 Time: TBA

Hosted by the NH Department of Agriculture

1. Application and Fees
2. Grading
3. Filter Requirements
4. Container Requirements (Such as storage buckets, drums, totes and other bulk containers)
5. Building Requirements
6. Contact Surfaces (Such as sap buckets and tubing)
7. Sanitation Requirements
8. Chemical Use
9. Limitations on use of equipment containing lead or lead solder

Vice President's Comments

Sales have been reported as feast or famine. Covid shut down contact with customers just as maple weekend would have brought thousands of happy shoppers to our sugarhouses for annual education and sales. Restaurant sales plummeted when sit in eating was banned. Lost as well were the planned summer fairs and field days events. Online sales, Farmer's Markets and farm gate serve yourself sales continued reasonably strong and continue to be the mainstays of retail sales.

We are still actively looking for more board members. Your board of directors is diligently working in trying times to not only hold things together but to improve product quality, increase sales and keep NHMPA as an organization responsive to the needs of you, the membership.

I would like here and now to publicly thank Sue Folsom for guiding me through my first six months as VP of our organization, she is truly an invaluable asset be sure to thank her when you see her. I also want to take a moment to thank past president Nick Kosko for his continuing help and guidance for the board.

On a closing thought, is there a member out there with room to store the association's enclosed trailer. Please call me at 603- 572-6973 or email me at david.kemp7@myfairpoint.net if you have room.

You can also reach out to any Board member with your problems, concerns, or suggestions. Their contact info is listed on our website.

Sincerely Dave Kemp NHMPA VP



IMSI Update

The International Maple Syrup Institute (IMSI) has won the battle against FDA's added sugar campaign. The war on sugar continues. Serving size and exact wording on the nutrition facts panel remain as works in progress.

IMSI has elected Pam Green of VT as their new president,. This past year ,1 face to face meeting and 5 Zoom meetings have been held to work on the industries problems.

NHMPA Board of Directors

President - vacant

Darrell Fisk - susanfisk6@gmail.com

Vice President– Dave Kemp
david.kemp7@myfairpoint.net, 603-562-6973

Andrew Chisholm - afchisholm@gmail.com, 978-985-1192

Treasurer -Sue Folsom
mplsugar@icloud.com, 603-887-3672

Chris Olsen - chris@syrupbythesea.com, 603-988-6174

Secretary - vacant

Editor, The Gathering Tank - Brenda Noiseux

Four exciting projects from UNH

Here's some exciting news about four recently funded research projects that are relevant to maple syrup producers in New Hampshire and throughout the northeast:

(i) Developing and testing a novel tap design for increasing sugarbush sap yields and sustainability through research, extension, and producer partnerships , funded by the USDA Acer Access and Development program; (ii) thi project, with the same title as the previous one, is supported by the North American Maple Syrup Council; (iii) Resilience and vulnerability of Acer saccharum to drought, defoliators, and tapping: stress thresholds and the role of non-structural carbohydrates ,” funded by the U.S. Forest Service’s Eco- logical Monitoring program; and (iv) Diversifying the maple syrup industry to enhance socioecological resilience & sustainability , supported by UNH’s Collaborative Research Excellence Pilot Research Project program.

The first two projects take different approaches to identifying opportunities to optimize maple tap design by targeting more shallow sapwood depths and by modifying taphole dimensions to increase sap yield while minimizing the volume of non-conductive wood formation.

The third project focuses on understanding how three key stressors affecting sugar maple—drought, defoliating insects, and tapping—interact to influence tree health, growth, and carbon storage, and the implications for sustainable sugarbush management.

The final project explores opportunities to diversity the syrup industry by assessing winter sap flow dynamics in several promising (non-maple) tree species, evaluating the chemical and nutritional properties of novel tree syrups, and determining their market potential.

These projects include strong participation by the syrup producer associations and university extension offices in New Hampshire and other northeastern states, as well as the U.S. Forest Service. Additionally, a variety of outreach activities such as workshops, farm visits, presentations at annual meetings, and opportunities to field-test novel tap designs, will be organized as part of these projects to engage interested syrup producers. If you are interested in obtaining more information and/or participating in one of the on-farm trials to test the novel taps, please contact: Dr. Heidi Asbjornsen, Associate Professor of Ecosystem Ecology at UNH Durham via [email: heidi.asbjornsen@unh.edu](mailto:heidi.asbjornsen@unh.edu).

NH Maple Museum

On September 25th, a six-hour work detail was held at the Rocks Estate in Bethlehem. Equipment was provided by Brad Presby and the Rocks Estate.

The remaining portions of Charlie Stewart’s gift were sorted and moved to consolidate The New Hampshire Maple Museums collection into one building. A pole barn has also been utilized for the pieces too large or too heavy to house in the two-story museum building. The moving of this one-of-a-kind collection had been promised for some time.

A heartfelt Thank You to all those who helped fulfill this promise..

- Lucien Blaise,
- Brian Folsom,
- Sue Folsom,
- Edie Kemp,
- David Kemp,
- Nigel Manley,
- Mike Moore,
- Mark Thompson

Marketing NH Maple

Due to advertising credits from NH Month, the NHMPA was able to run a special weeklong radio ad campaign leading up to Thanksgiving and the holidays. Focused on gift giving and holiday baking, the ads directed listeners to the NHMPA website where the online Marketplace listing was placed this fall.

The association also took advantage of being linked on various third-party websites, such as The Big E website and other state and Made in NH programs.

Maple Sugaring Season 2021

Announcements in Jan/Feb

As you prepare for the 2021 maple sugaring season, be on the lookout for the following important email announcements and updates.

- NHMPA Regional Member Meetings
- Information regarding the status of NH Maple Month
- Maple Digest updates
- Seal of Quality webinar
- The annual NH governor's maple tree tapping

Containers

Container prices for members are to remain the same with the exception of a slight increase in gallons to \$56.00 per case or \$2.40 Per jug.

NH Maple Month Sign-Up

The sign up form is currently on hold pending further updates on COVID-19 cases and updates.

Maple Educational Programs Continue in 2021

Though the 2020-2021 school year has been full of changes, teachers, parents, and students can still look to the NHMPA and NH Agriculture in the Classroom (NHATIC) for maple education resources and contests.

The NHMPA continues to sponsor prizes for the Tucker Mountain Challenge, a hands-on maple sugaring classroom project that usually reaches hundreds of NH school children each year. In 2020, NHATIC created another classroom contest, the Peterson Project, for non-sugaring projects, due to the challenges presented by COVID-19. Though not sponsored by the NHMPA, the Peterson Project is similar to the NHMPA hosted Felker Award. Where the Felker Award is for an individual student, the Peterson Project is designed for classrooms and small groups.

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.

NAMSC Update

MAPLE RESEARCH.ORG

The North American Maple Syrup Council (NAMSC) has developed an online library of research articles, available at www.mapleresearch.org.

NAMSC has decided to spend time and money to see if the industry needs to be represented differently than in the past.

Maple Digest Updates

They have also instituted a program to release pertinent timely industry related information between Maple Digest publications. A request for all NHMPA members' email addresses was made by NAMSC but release was denied by your board in order to keep tighter security on member information. The news releases will be made to the NHMPA board and released via email to the membership by the NHMPA board.



2021 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, 2021 (includes a \$5 donation to the NH Maple Museum)	\$40.00
Official outdoor metal NHMPA Membership sign @ \$38.00 each	\$ _____
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 where we accept credit cards.

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



Stay Connected & Get Social!

The NHMPA is on social media! The association is Facebook, Twitter and now Instagram as well. Social media connects 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.

There is also a NHMPA members only Facebook group where members can post and interact with each other.



More Information about the program is available at www.nhmapleproducers.com.