



Vol. 23, No. 4

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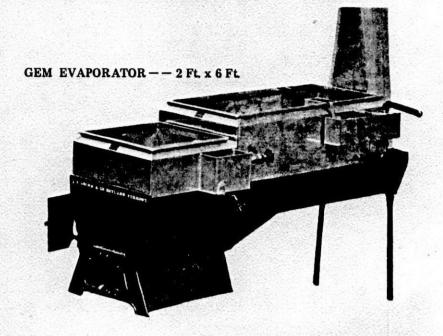
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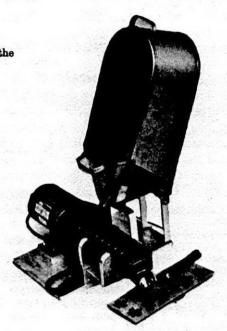
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#### THE MAPLE SYRUP DIGEST

Published & Lloyd H. Sipple Edited by:

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Phone:

607-967-7208

Published four times a year. (Feb., July, Oct., Dec.) Postage Paid at Bainbridge, N. Y. 13733 Mailed outside our circulation area for \$3.00 per year.

Printed by:

LaTourette Rapid Reproductions inc. 13 No. Canal Street, Box 598 Oxford, New York 13830

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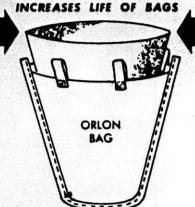
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## Editorial

I've seen a lot of changes in syrup making since I was big enough to notice things. We've come from wooden and tin buckets to tubing for collecting sap. Tubing also allowed gathering tanks to be replaced with pumps in some cases and trucks replaced the horses or tractors and sleds in others.

Automatic draw-offs and hydrometers have replaced the "precision scoop" to determine density and grading sets have made "guesstomating" obsolete. We have plastic syrup containers and rubber sugar molds instead of wood or tin. Ultra violet lights are making underground storage old fashioned and tight covers and pre-heaters take care of the steam better than a hole in the roof.

In the last 50 years that I can remember the best, some say it's more like 75, about the only change there's been in evaporators is from English tin to stainless steel. Must be those who designed them in the first place did a pretty good job. At least we haven't had to buy a new model every year or two just to keep in style, like automobiles.

But lately the cost of energy has forced a change to Reverse Osmosis and Vapor Compression Distillate machines. Also, the "Economizer" may be just the answer for both the

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large and small operations. It may very well be that someone will soon come up with an entirely different gadget to replace all of them. There must be something to help the little guy who doesn't want to invest a lot of money to make a couple hundred gallons of syrup.

I guess you might call this reminiscing. Mary Lou says I'm day dreaming and she's probably right. With the Christmas season approaching it's a good time for it.

As I think back, I started out as a "back yard" producer, built it up to a sizeable operation and have now cut down to a very small size again. I guess you could rightfully say I'm over the hump.

But being over the hump doesn't mean I'm ready for the rocking chair on the front porch yet, although I do end up there occasionally on summer evenings. It means I'll re-arrange my schedule and devote more time to the things I enjoy most: growing Christmas trees, working in my woods, taking on a few part time jobs and, last but not least, have more time to do a better job on the Digest.

So now I'll sign off and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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#### GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN



We have just returned from Traverse City, Michigan, and an excellent 24th Annual Meeting of the N.A.M.S.C. The meeting place was good, the foliage still colorful and the company great. The Michigan folks sure did a great job for us.

As we begin our 25th year as an organization, it has been brought to my attention in many ways, that a lot of maple folks don't know what the Council is or does.

For starters, I'd like to tell you the "purpose of the Council" as stated in the by-laws--

- (a) To promote the best interests of "Maple syrup producers";
- (b) To establish standards and to integrate industry standards of maple syrup and its derived products;
- (c) To promote research in the chemistry and technology of maple sap and syrup and their derived products; to improve control of sap quality; to improve sap production methods; to lower sap production costs; to improve syrup processing methods, equipment and labor requirements; to improve packaging methods, and packaging to expand the markets though the development of new products;

- (d) To promote research in Maple (bushes) orchard management; to improve tree stands and yields of sap per taphole and per acre; to improve tree species and methods for their propagation; to develop methods for the control of insects and diseases damaging to maple trees;
- (e) To promote research to expand the markets for Maple products;
- (f) To promote unified effort among the various groups represented on the Council;
- (g) To cooperate at all times with other organizations promoting Maple syrup industry.

I could add one more purpose that has more or less happened since the demise of the Tri-ennial Maple conference in Philadelphia. That is to act as a sounding board, with a great many maple producers as a live audience for scientific and technical papers. This is often the first hearing of new research and new or different ideas.

In future issues, I hope to tell you just a few of the things the Council has accomplished.

Well, I've got to start thinking about the next season. How time flies!

Gordon Gowen

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#### N. Y. MAPLE SCHOOLS

The following is a tentative schedule of maple schools to be held January, 1984. In all cases, contact agent for exact time and location where not specified. More information will be published by your County Extension Service.

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1/18	Chenango	Gerald Le Clar 607/334-5841	Sherburne Municipal Bldg. Rt. 80, Sherburne, NY
1/19	Delaware	Tom Donnelly 607 / 865-6531	
1/20	Otsego	Bill Gengenbach 607/547-2536	Methodist Church Cooperstown, NY
1/24	Lewis	Dave Hill 315/376-6551	Deere Hill Restaurant Rt. 12, Lowville, NY
1/25	St. Lawrence	Mike Sullivan 315/379-2311	Canton Free Library Park St., Canton, NY
1/26	Clinton	Bill Pauling 518/561-7450	Miner Institute West of Chazy, NY (Rt. 191 Exit 41W off Northway)
1/27	Washington	John Thurgood 518/747-2861	Mohican Grange Hall Ridge Rd. & Sunnyside Rd. Oneida Corners, NY

#### MICHIGAN MAPLE SYRUP QUEEN

Daughter of Dale and Eleanora Strange, and a 1983 graduate of Kingsley High School, 18 year old Dawn Marie Strange was chosen to be Michigan's first Maple Syrup Queen.

In 1972, Dawn was chosen the Kingsley Elementary princess for the National Cherry Festival.

In 1982, she was chosen to represent her hometown as Miss Kingsley Following her reign as Miss Kingsley, Dawn competed in the local Miss Grand Traverse Area Scholarship Pageant, where she was selected second runner-up.





In 1982, she was chosen to represent the southern Grand Traverse district at the Farm Bureau Government Citizenship Seminar held at Albion College in Calhoun county.

This fall Dawn plans to attend Northwestern Michigan college in Traverse City, to further her education as a Medical Asst.

Dawn will be present at the Grand Traverse Resort in October at the National Meeting of Maple Syrup Producers hosted by the Michigan Maple Syrup Producers Association.

Dawn is also a fourth generation syrup maker. She helps each spring washing buckets, etc., to start the syrup season. She has been involved in all areas of making syrup.

### BOB LAMB'S CORNER

In a small business that only takes place for a short time each year, our learning periods are limited. There has always been three things in the collection of maple sap that have been foremost in our minds.

- Each morning, every extra drop that is collected is of the most importance.
- To run all day, if possible, when not a single drop falls in the buckets.
   These marginal days occur often enough to warrant attention. Even an extra hour here and there adds up. The good days take of themselves.
- 3. To run as late in the day as possible.

These three problems add up to one item: How much sap can be collected with the smallest investment and give the greatest return over the longest period. Remember, the more we invest, the more we have to get back.

The first step is to draw heat and melt the ice in the tubing. Color draws Infra Red rays to warm it up. Yet, we have to have a translucent tubing to allow Ultra Violet rays to penetrate the walls and retard bacterial growth.

Color is a relative thing. If you think the tubing is too dark, don't worry. Each year it will get lighter. Fading can not be stopped with any coloring available at this time that will pass the F.D.A.

Today's 5/16 tubing should last 20 to 25 years if taken care of properly. Less, if not, but that's your business. To still have some color left is quite a problem. To counteract it, we put many microscopic, star shaped

particles in every foot of tubing we make. These keep Infra Red rays bouncing back and forth in the walls more times than just hitting once. Yet, they do not restrict Ultra Violet penetration to help retard bacterial growth.

This is no big deal, but important enough to go to the extra expense. If we want to do the best we can, we have to.

In any business there is always the burr under the saddle. With buckets you can wash and keep rotating. With tubing you can sometimes get away from sanitizing during the season. But if there are warm spells in between runs, you should run a weak Clorox solution through your lines. (1 part Clorox to about 40 parts water) This will usually put you back in the light syrup business. Some insert it in the high point of each line and let some sap run on the ground. Others use a hand carried air tank to blow it out. We need more research on this procedure

As you know, Clorox is voluable and will usually boil off. If your solution is too strong, you will have off flavored syrup. Only so much can be boiled off.

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#### WISCONSIN FALL MAPLE TOUR

The "fall maple tour" took place this year in Oneida and Price Counties, on Saturday, Oct. 1. There were about 100 producers along with this years Maple Queen that were able to enjoy the beautiful day, tours and banquet.

It started out with our registration from 8:30 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. at Fifield. We then boarded 2 buses and a few cars and set out for Herb Brook's Sugarbush. It is located on the west side of Squirrel Lake at Minocqua. Herb said it was only 41/2 miles south of the main highway, but I'm sure we would all agree, it seemed like 15 miles or more because of all the hills and curves we were on. We also have to agree that the area was beautiful. The trees were almost at their peak in color. When we got there, we were treated to donuts and coffee while Herb told us a little about his operation. He has about 1,200 taps and processes his syrup on an oilfired fired 3 x 10 evaporator. What is unique at Herb's is that he makes just about all his equipment from his sap bag handles, finishing pan, filter press, bottler, etc.

After this, we headed for the cranberry bogs. We went to Alder Lake Cranberry Company near Manitowish Waters. They were harvesting this years crop and told us that they are a three generation operation and harvest their crop with equipment that is mostly of their own design.

From there we went to the Blue Bayou Inn for a delicious lunch and discussed our mornings adventures.

Back on the buses and off to the Howard Vander Veen Farm and Sugarbush. Howard's farm was that of a herd of 50 buffalo within the boundaries of the Chequamegon National Forest. His sugarbush was a short distance from here and is under development. He has 120 acres and makes maple syrup on a 3 x 12 wood-fired evaporator. Howard is in the process of moving this from his present location to a different building and to use plastic tubing for sap collection.

Our next stop was at the John Slack Sugarbush near Park Falls. They have been in the maple syrup business since 1964 and purchase all their sap. They process their syrup on a 6 x 16 wood fired evaporator and is then transferred to a 4 x 12 oil-fired evaporator for finishing.

At 5:00 P.M. we were back at Fifield in the Northwoods Cafe for our banquet and program. During our program, Ted Peterson, Wisconsin State Forester, introduced our 1983-84 Wisconsin Maple Queen, Jewelie Grape, who is a student at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Ted then thanked Herb Brooks for arranging our fall tour. At this time, our President Alton Hoff presented the "Wisconsin Syrup Maker of the Year" award. It went to Mr. & Mrs. John Slack. Congratulations!

A few other speakers were heard, pictures were taken and then we all headed our separate ways. Tired, hopefully a little "Maple" smarter and plans starting for that first drop in the bucket in the spring.

Gretchen Grape

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#### PENNSYLVANIA MAPLE SYRUP PRINCESS CHOSEN

Deanna Stahlman, the 1983 Northwestern Pennsylvania Maple Queen was chosen to be the 1983-84 Pennsulvania Maple Syrup Princess at the recently held State Maple Tour. Deanna is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Gary Stahlman of Reno. Pa. As the State Maple Syrup representative, she will participate in all state functions starting with the Farm Show which will be held January 8-13, 1984.

The second runner-up in the contest was Christine Hyde of Shinglehouse, Pa., representing the Potter-Tioga Maple Producers Association. The third runner-up was Lois French of Athens, Pa., representing the Endless Mountains Maple Producers Association including Bedford and Windham Summit

Northwestern Pennsylvania Maple Producers Association was host for this year's State Maple Tour and Princess contest which was headquartered at the Corrian Hotel, Corry, Pa. The program involved tours on Friday, September 23, of Northrup's Egg Farm and Sugar House in Corry; Troy Firth's Central Evaporator in Spartansburg, the largest maple syrup operation in Pennsylvania; Troyer's Potato Chip Factory in Waterford and the Corry Fish Hatchery. In the evening the State Banquet was held where the Princess

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contest took place. Charles Dengler. Saegertown, president of the Northwest Maple Producers Association conducted the meeting. Joseph Beard, Crawford County Extension Agent, gave a slide presentation on the 1983 Dow Study Tour he was awarded by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. Beard was one of 30 agents from all over the United States that spent 10 days touring the northeastern area including east central New York, up the Champlain Valley, across New Hampshire, into Maine then back through Massachusetts and Connecticut. The purpose of this tour was to study agriculture production, research, agri-business, marketing and merchandising activities that contribute to the economic well-being of agriculture.

The 1982-83 Pennsylvania Maple Syrup Princess Kim Walberg, Wattsburg, told the group what she accomplished during her reign and crowned the new princess, Deanna Stahlman

Bernard Tobin, one of the direc-

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tors of the Northwest Maple Producers Association, conducted the State Princess Contest.

Closing remarks and door prize distribution was done by John Deets, Titusville, another director of the Association.

On Saturday, September 24, the group visited Larry Young's Fruit Market, a vineyard, and the Penn Shore Winery in North East. In Wattsburg they toured Owen Johnson's sugar house, Charles Bush's maple operation and Greg Walberg's sugar house.

There were 118 persons in attendance representing maple producers, maple equipment manufacturers and sales people and other interested persons. This group had people from all the maple producing areas of Pennsylvania, as well as New Hampshire, Vermont, New York and Canada.

The tour planning committee consisted of the following people: Charles Dengler, Saegertown; Mrs. Eugene Running, Cambridge Springs; Mrs. Lloyd Gates, Corry; John Deets, Titusville; Troy Firth, Spartansburg; Bernard Tobin, Cambridge Springs; Charles Bush, Wattsburg; Joseph Beard, Crawford County Extension Agent.

Joseph Beard Crawford County Extension Agent



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#### ARCHIE'S SUGARBUSH

Dear Mr. Editor:

My wife she sez, "Honest Archie, sometimes she calls me Truthful Archie, please tell that nice Mr. Editor man about the time of the frozen steam."

Well, ya see, it was like this. We waz really boiling sap, this was the vear after the winter of the blue snow. There was so much steam you couldn't see your hand in front of vour face.

Well, after we made elebenty eleben gallons we started to run out of sap, so we decided to shut her down and go and eat. We hadn't eaten in 48 hours. Well, when we got back it turned cold, and I mean cold. When the fire went out in the evaporator that steam froze solid. It was like a room full of styrofoam. I opened the

door and couldn't get in.

I remembered my big corn knife, which I went and got, and began cutting that frozen steam into blocks about one foot square. We pried the door open so we could toss the blocks outside. We really had a pile of those blocks, almost as big as a house. We finally cut our way to the evaporator where we started a fire and melted the remaining steam inside the build-

It took days to melt that pile of frozen steam blocks outside. We had a heck of a time tripping over them. They was everywhere. I was glad when it turned warm and they all

melted.

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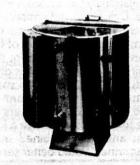
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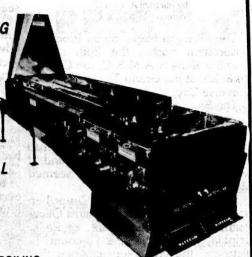
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#### 1983 N. American Maple Syrup Council Meeting

by Michael A. Girard Secretary N.A.M.S.C.

The Michigan Maple Syrup Producers Association hosted the 24th annual meeting of the N.A.M.S.C., on October 24 & 25, at the Grand Traverse Resort,

Traverse City, Michigan.

The Business meeting included reports from 12 of the 13 member states. Most states seemed to have one thing in common and that was that syrup production was at best average and at worst, very poor. Syrup prices seemed

higher than 1982 prices.

Russ Davenport gave the Council an up date on the court case against Oliver Anthony and Dewey Clark, of Philadelphia, Mississippi. In a 13-count indictment, the grand jury charged that the defendants manufactured, processed, shipped and sold foods labled as maple syrup, maple table syrup, honey and sorghum syrup that were actually corn and sugar syrups, sometimes blended with the labeled product and sometimes artificially flavored. Both defendants pleaded not guilty to all counts at their arraignment. They were freed on bond to await trial in federal court.

Delegates were asked to enter into a discussion concerning the Maple Digest. Questions and concerns were voiced by the Delegates, advertisers and subscribers. Some had concerns regarding the format and the amount of financial support some states have for the Digest. A point was made that it is difficult for the industry to support two maple publications. Many people want to keep the two magazines and others say merging the two would eliminate a lot of duplication and the combined quality of two magazines would better serve the maple

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11171 Sisson Highway, Route 75 North Collins, N. Y. 14111 industry. A publication board has been appointed and will start immediately. Within a 12 month period they will research the feasibility of merging the Maple Digest and the Maple Journal. This board will review the editorial and advertising policies and establish an associate editor and an entirely new subscription policy.

Officers elected for 1984 were Chairman, Gordon Gowen, New Hampshire; Vice Chairman, John Kroll, Minnesota and Secretary/Treasurer Michael Girard, Connecticut. Elmer Kress extended an invitation to the Council to hold its 25th annual meeting at the Ethan Allen Inn, Danbury, Connecticut, on October 26 and 27, 1984. It was voted and unanimously accepted by the Council. Pennsylvania's Maple Syrup association extended an invitation for the 1985 N.A.M.S.C. meeting, which was voted on and approved.

Francois Cyr, representing New Brunswick, Canada, has shown an interest in joining the N.A.M.S.C. New Brunswick will become the 14th state/province to

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to improve
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Assortment of decorative designs available in choice of one or two colors

#### What do folks have to say about KRESS jugs?

#### Dear Sir

I have recently tried some of your Kress jugs that I won as a door prize on the '82 New York Maple Tour. They are of higher quality than the \_\_\_\_\_\_ jugs I've used in the past.

William VonMatt Rome. New York

#### Dear Sir

We sell maple syrup and candy and have been using your Kress jugs for eight years ... we have a lot of comments about your jugs. Our customers love them. We are pleased with the quality of your jugs as we had used others before we used yours.

John & Carol Deets Titusville, PA

#### Dear Sir

We have used Kress jugs purchased through M.M.S.A., so we know they are good. Our customers say they are "cute".

Paul Bergmann Traverse City, MI

#### Dear Kress Creations:

We are very discouraged with the metal cans as they rust and the caps and inner seals are assorted sizes. We have decided not to buy them next season. We feel that Kress jugs are the most attractive plastic containers of all the ones we've looked at ... Ninety-nine percent of the people who buy our syrup choose your container over the metal.

Randy Whitcher Warren, NH

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If our jugs aren't available in your area, write or call us.

KRESS

CREATIONS, INC. 349 Christian Street • Oxford, CT. 06483 (203) 264-9898

join the Council.

In addition to the annual business meeting, many presentations were given regarding maple syrup production, research and development as well as marketing. Participants included Michigan and Ontario maple producers and research and forest extension service staff from Cornell, Michigan, Ontario and Vermont Universities.

Ron Shaw, Ontario Delegate, introduced a series of speakers on "How

Things are going in Canada".

John Butler, Extension Specialist, gave a slide presentation on the need for proper sugarbush management and the importance of regeneration of Maple seedlings, planting maples and the provincial sweet tree program.

Mr. Butler noted that 60% of the taps in Ontario are on tubing and the major-

ity use dry vacuum.

Many innovative Ontario producers have increased efficiency by using sawdust as fuel, palletizing wood, using sap preheaters, and forced draft and also that there are 30 Reverse Osmosis units

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now being used in Ontario. Some of Ontario's promotional activities include an exhibit at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, as well as displays at different fairs and Festivals within the Province.

Mr. Harold Kent, Ontario producer from St. Joseph Island, gave a presentation on his family's involvement in sugaring since 1919. Mr. Kent detailed the improvements and growth of the family operation through the years. Harold explained and gave a slide presentation of recent changes in the operation, such as the use of vacuum tubing, preheaters, reverse osmosis and the use of fertilizer in the sugarbush.

Mr. Bill Langenburg, Kemptville College, Ontario, gave a presentation on Marketing of Maple Products. Signs, news paper advertising, display ads and cooperative advertising were among the many types of advertising discussed.

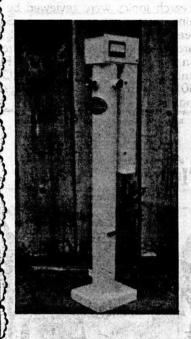
Bill recommended a budget of 10% of the gross income for the first 3 years be directed to advertising. This can be reduced to 6% of the gross income on the 4th year and further reduced to 3% on the 6th or 7th year. All producers should continue to advertise regardless of sales.

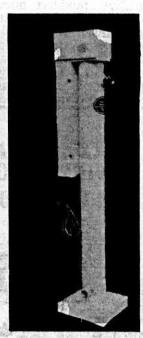
"Maple Syrup Production in Michigan-How We Do It" included a series of presentations and speakers were introduced by Dean Rhoads, District Extension Leader, Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State University.

Dr. Mel Koelling, Professor and Extension Specialist in Forestry, Michigan State University, gave an overview of Maple Syrup Production in Michigan. Dr. Koelling stated that many of the new innovations to the maple industry are being used in Michigan. Many unique

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as well as some small farm operations utilize only a fraction of the available maple trees in the state.

Dave Near, Michigan Syrup producer, described his sugaring operation of 10,000 taps and his experience with a vapor compression distiller. Dave uses a VCE and Reverse Osmosis unit to remove 95% of the water from the sap. Details on the cost of the equipment and cost to produce a gallon of syrup were presented.

Jim Nye, producer from Lapeer, Michigan, made a presentation on "How to make Tubing and Vacuum Pumping Work". Jim's comments outlined cleaning of tubing, locating vacuum leaks and sizing tubing properly.

and care in drilling will decrease the ping.

chances of vacuum loss at the taphole. Jim noted bleach should be considered a sanitizing solution, not a cleaning solution. Bleach will leave no residue, but if left in the lines, and diluted with sap can cause an off-flavored syrup.

Mr. Fred Laing, University of Vermont, gave a slide presentation on "Research and Development from all over the Country". Some notes on the Sweet Tree program, thinning sugarbush, wood residue fuels, acid rain, and other research topics were reviewed by Mr. Laing. A limited quantity of "Sweet Trees" are still available. Contact: Bill Baron, Vermont Environmental Protection Agency, 111 West Street, Essex Junction, Vermont, 05452. Cost: The proper drill bit sized to the spile \$30.00 per 50 seedlings, including ship-

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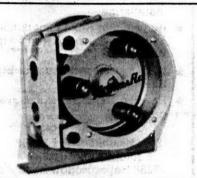
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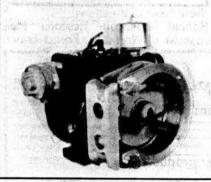
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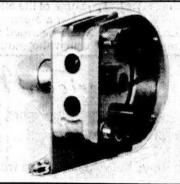


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Rt. 2, Box 337, Rapid City, MI 49676 Phone (616) 331-6328 Fred Laing introduced Dr. Mariafranca Morselli, U.V.M., who spoke on several research projects including sap ultra filtration before entering R.O. units and the amount of toxic material a tree can withstand from acid rain.

Lew Staats, Extension Specialist, Cornell University, gave an update on Cornell's Maple Program. An overview of some of the work being done involves research on high vacuum vs sugar content of maple sap. A slide presentation was given on the planting and maintenance of the sweet tree program. Also, Cornell has been involved over the last two years in research with Vapor Compression Evaporators. A new proto type was at the New York State Fair last summer and they hope to run this unit next season. Lew noted a situation that needs to be addressed, is the health problem of the sugar maple. He spoke of one instance of heavy mortality in a forest infested with Forest Tent Caterpillar after only one year of defoliation:

Another instance in eastern New York, was the dieback of foliage in mid June. The edges of leaves turn dark brown and the leaves drop. Some of the affected trees have died off over a 3-year period. Looking for answers, he urged better communication within the industry



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of these types of situations.

Ronald Wilkinson, Research Plant Geneticist of Northeast Forest Experi-

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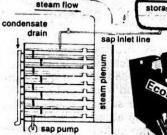
#### osmonics, inc.

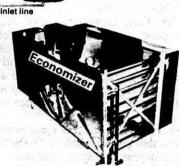
Reverse Osmosis 100-20,000 taps 16 models

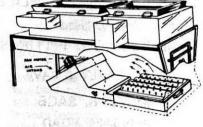
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Utilizes all steam from existing evaporator. Increase total efficiency to 65%. Can be installed on any evaporator. 40% fuel consumption decrease.







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ment Station, was introduced by Fred Laing. Ron will work on Research for Genetic Improvement of Sap and Sap yield in the sugar-maple. The Williamstown, Massachusetts Plantation was described and is being used to monitor growth of maples and sap sugar content under plantation conditions. Survival rate in this plantation is 90% over 23 years. Trees are not sprayed and only mice protection was used in earlier years.

John Butler, Secretary/Treasurer of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association, reviewed results of a survey completed by their association of all state and provincial syrup producer groups. The information obtained was tabulated into a report detailing year formed, membership and dues, funding, assistance of outside groups, meetings, tours, advertising marketing, etc. Eleven associations replied to the survey. John also presented the new Maple Logo for Ontario Pure Maple Syrup.

Dr. Mariafranca Morselli, U.V.M., gave a slide presentation outlining growth of Microorganisms in tubing stored between seasons. Dr. Morselli also gave favorable results on tests on an in-line ultra violet light used to treat sap

as it enters storage tanks.

Mr. Dean Rhodes introduced a series of speakers with presentations on Mich-

igan Maple topics.

Mrs. Fern Gearhart, spoke on how she produces and markets Michigan maple syrup products. Mrs. Gearhart has a 5,000 bucket operation and markets her syrup products at the sugarhouse and by mail order. Many attractive packaging and display ideas includ-

ing gift boxes were shown.

Mr. Frank Majszak, MI. syrup producer, gave a slide presentation on "Experiences with a large maple syrup operation". The 16,000 tap operation includes 50 miles of tubing. 10 miles of mainline on wire and three miles of buried mainline. Seven vacuum or pressure pumps feed the sap to the storage tanks at the sugarhouse. Frank uses an R.O. and a wood fired evaporator to produce the syrup and then stores the syrup in unique underground syrup storage tanks.

Larry Gearhart, described Michigan's first maple syrup week and how they did it. Larry gave an overview of procedures on advertising and financing a

maple syrup week.

George Fogle described the wholesale maple syrup business in Michigan. George noted that the Michigan producer does not specifically produce syrup for wholesale purposes and generally sells direct to the consumer or store. Michigan is a deficit syrup producing state and is importing more

syrup than it is producing.

Ted Johnson, producer from Michigan's upper penninsula, briefly described his 5,000 tap operation and detailed advantages and disadvantages of wood residue combustion, systems. The types of wood residue fuels available are sawdust, wood chunks, pellets, blocks, briquettes and debarking residue. Ted gave a slide presentation on system design and also the costs of the wood residue fuels.

Prof. Putnam Robbins, retired For. Prof. MI. State Univ., highlighted his observations over 60 yrs. of maple syrup production. Prof. Robbins, continued through a lesson in the history of MI. maple syrup. Many news articles, buckets, pictures etc., part of a 40 yr. collection, was donated to the Maple Museum in Crogan, N.Y. by Prof. Robbins.

Ms. Jean Story Commodity Program Coordinator, Ml. Dept. of Agric., outlined an active campaign in Ml. to promote agric. products. Marketing tools and lifestyle marketing were some of the topics discussed.

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ELECTRONICALLY PRO-TECTED: Shuts-off when unit is out of sap. High pressure relief valve also protects the membrane.



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Model	Number of	Number of	Dimensions	
Number	Taps	Membranes	WHD	
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Dan Johnson	Jaffrey, NH.	603-532-7379
Thomas Todd	Norwood, NY.	315-352-2808
Frank Schambach	West Falls, NY.	716-652-8189

#### POTENTIAL DISCREPANCIES IN APPLYING U.S. AND CANADIAN SYRUP COLOR STANDARDS

by
L. D. Garrett
Forest Economist, USDA
Forest Ser., Flagstaff, Ariz. 86001
M. F. Morselli
Res. Assoc. Prof., Botany Dept.
Univ. of VT. Agric. Exper. Station
Burlington, Vt. 05405
W. L. Jenkins, President
Vermont Country Maple, Inc.
Jericho Center, Vt. 05465

#### Abstract

With both the U.S. visual method and the Canadian spectrophotometric method, we color-graded 120 maple syrups produced and graded in Vermont and 53 syrups produced and graded in Canada. Results indicated that the spectrophotometric measure of variation corresponding to each of the U.S. visual grades is lower than that specified in the Canadian standards.

#### INTRODUCTION

Standards for maple syrup products are established to ensure their proper manufacture and to provide consumer information. Today, all maple syrup grading systems in the U.S. use visual comparison with either glass-chip or caramel-glycerol solution color comparators as standards (Table 1). The judgment is not made using a spectrophotometer. However. the visual standards were developed using a spectrophotometer. Percent light transmittance (% T) values of not less than 75.0, 74.9 to 60.5, and 60.4 to 44.0 correspond to U.S. Grade A--light, medium, and dark amber, respectively (USDA 1979).

In Canada, two grading systems

<sup>1</sup>This research was undertaken in cooperation with the University of Vermont while the senior author was forest economist and W. L. Jenkins was a chemist at the George D. Aiken Sugar Maple Laboratory, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Burlington, Vermont.

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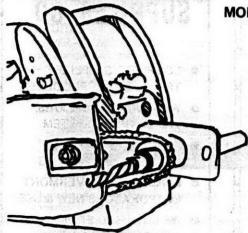


Do NOT run either model with excessive speed. Run your saw at a fast idle. Stop the tapper from turning with your gloved left hand. Then place against the tree and let go. Rev the motor just enough to cut the hole. Hold with the gloved hand and remove.

#### 

#### IMPORTANT!

Make sure we have make, model and chain pitch. PLEASE!



#### MODEL B

This model fits most chain saws. Runs with a short piece of saw chain. Has a short fork in place of a saw bar with another sprocket out front. \$85 plus \$2 for shipping cost. Extra bradpoint bits, \$10 each. Comes with 7/16 left hand bradpoint bit. With the unit on the saw and the chain guard in place, hold the tapper and pull the chain tight, then tighten the bar nuts.

1/4" 99 100 101

USE THESE SAMPLES TO CHECK CHAIN PITCH.

76 77 78 325" 68 69 70 3/8"

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exist, a federal system and one for the Province of Quebec. All other provinces use the federal system. Both the Quebec Provincial and Canadian Federal regulations specify that the spectrophotometer is the official standard. But, producers use permanent glass and caramelglycerol visual kits for unofficial field grading. Both Canadian and Quebec standards specify not less than 75.0, 74.9 to 60.5, and 60.4 to 44.0 % T for the three table grades of syrup (Agric. Canada 1977, Quebec Minister Agric. 1980) (Table 1).

## EVALUATION OF VISUAL AND SPECTROPHOTOMETER STANDARD

Examination of pure maple syrup visual and spectrophotometric standards has revealed a discrepancy in application. Morselli and others

## YES!

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One and two color designs

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Hardscrabble Tree Farm 35 Bridge Street Colebrook, NH 03576 (1982) found that a glass chip or corresponding caramel-glycerol solution and pure maple syrup, which visually look the same, give different readings in a spectrophotometer.

To investigate the phenomenon, 173 standard density (66°Brix) samples of filtered pure maple syrups, representing the three table grades, were packed in glass bottles directly from producers: 120 from Vermont and 53 from Canada. Percent transmittance values were determined on all syrups at a wavelength of 560-nm in a dual beam spectrophotometer with a pair of optically matched quartz cuvettes with a 10-mm light path. Chemically pure glycerol was used as the 100% T reference.

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## TUBING CONNECTORS SPOUTS

"T's"

#### **SPOUTS**

- Black color aids in rapid taphole thawing.
- For removal use 1" wrench or hammer.

#### SPOUT-PLUG

 Interconnection between "T" and spout.





 Tapered "T" with smaller first ridge for easier tubing insertion.

#### SPOUT-PLUG

 Tight seal with spout allows pressure or vacuum washing of tubing in place.

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"SUPER—COLD" — Green translucent color. I.D. is standard for complete interchangeability. Minimizes ultraviolet sunlight deterioration. Blends with nature in summer for year round lines. Has a broad temperature range in which elasticity remains the same. Excellent for cold weather use and reduces extreme sags in warmer weather.



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Visual grading was accomplished with an official USDA permanent glass color comparator using daylight illumination (Willits and Underwood 1961). Measurements were made at room temperature on clear syrup samples with no air bubbles.

Visual grades were determined by the consensus of three people experienced in the color grading of maple syrup. Independent instrument light transmittance values were obtained by persons not involved in visual grading.

The original grade of all syrups used in the analysis was verified. The 53 Canadian syrups were verified with a permanent glass color comparator. These were also the methods used in grading the syrups originally. No color grade changes had occurred in any syrup after packing.

The 173 syrup samples were graded again using a permanent glass-chip color comparator. Each of the color-graded syrup samples was tested in a spectrophotometer for its % T.

The % T of all syrup samples in each of the three table grades was then statistically analyzed. The results revealed a discrepancy between visual and spectrophotometric grading.

#### **RESULTS**

Figure 1 presents a summary of the statistical analysis of the % T of all syrups graded visually as Grade A--light, medium, and dark amber. For each visual grade category, we determined the mean and standard deviation of % T.

The three dark lines in Fig. 1 represent the % T "mean" (midpoint cross), and "one standard deviation" from the mean for all syrups visually grad-

#### **Figure Legend**

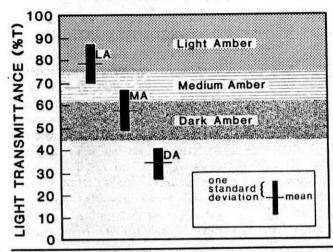


Figure 1.--Means and standard deviations of the spectrophotometric values of 173 maple syrups visually graded into the three table grades.

ed into each of the three table grades. The "standard deviation" measures the spread of the values around the mean. For a normal distribution of values, 68% are within one standard deviation of the mean. For example,

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the mean % T for all syrups which visually graded light amber was 78.1 (Fig. 1, cross line on the highest dark vertical line). The mean is above 75.0% T, which is the lowest % T to qualify a syrup as light amber. However, many syrups which visually graded light amber actually graded lower using the spectrophotometer.

The darker the syrup is, the greater the discrepancy. For example, the mean for syrups visually graded medium amber is 57.5% T. This is below the minimum standard spectrophotometer reading for medium amber (60.5% T).

Almost all syrups graded dark amber visually would be Grade B using the spectrophotometer. That is, the mean (33.9% T) plus one standard deviation of all visually graded dark

amber syrups actually fell below the minimum spectophotometer value for dark amber (44.0% T).

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Our analysis has revealed a discrepancy in applying color standards to maple syrup grades. The source of the problem is that a syrup and a caramel-glycerol solution and/or glasscolor comparator of the same color (determined visually) will not necessarily have the same % T at a given wavelength as measured by a spectrophotometer. The discrepancy results because the syrup and caramel have slightly different spectrums. Syrup will look darker to the spectrophotometer than it will to the eve in comparison with either of the currently used color comparators.

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Two approaches could be taken to resolve the problem:

- Establish the glass-chip color comparator as the universal standard for color grading. The use of caramel-glycerol standards should be discontinued because of their tendency to fade.
- Change the % T standard to accommodate the different spectrums for caramel and syrup, and continue to use both the glass-chip color comparator and the spectrophotometer.

The most practical approach would seem to be establishment of the glass-chip visual-color comparator as the universal standard. It is the most widely used and understood system, is easiest to apply, and is less expensive than the spectrophotometer. It is the U.S. Federal standard and is included in the latest Federal Canadian maple products regulations as an unofficial alternative to the spectrophotometer.

The second alternative would require a change in spectrophotometric values to accommodate spectrum differences between caramel and syrup. To accomplish this, new % T values must be used for a 10-mm rectangular cell at 560-nm wavelength. The % T values derived in this study are presented in Table 2.

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#### TABLE I

Table 1.--Current U.S. and Canadian Federal standards for table grade maple syrups

U.S. Federala		Canadian Federalb	
Grade	Standard (Visual)	Grade	Standard (Spectrophoto- metric, % T)
Grade A. Light amber	Not darker than Light amber Standard	No. 1, Extra light	Not less than 75.0
Grade A. medium amber	Not darker than medium amber standard	No. 1, light	74.9 to 60.5
Grade A. dark amber	Not darker than dark amber standard	No. 1, medium	60.4 to 44.0

<sup>a</sup>Applies to all states without existing standards; optional in states with voluntary standards. Permanent glass-chip and caramel-glycerol visual-color comparators are acceptable.

bApplies to all provinces without existing standards. Percent light transmittance through 10-mm cell at 560-nm wavelength. Quebec's standard is identical for all table syrup color grades.

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#### TABLE 2

Table 2.--Suggested revised light transmittance for maple syrup grades to accommodate spectrum differences between caramel-glycerol solutions and pure maple syrup

Syrup grade	Light transmittance <sup>a</sup>
Grade A	
Light amber	Not less than 64.5%
Medium amber	Not less than 51.5%
Dark amber	Not less than 29.0%

aChange from not less than 75.0, 60.5, and 44.0 for light, medium, and dark amber, respectively, using 560-nm wavelength, 10-mm cell and using chemically pure glycerol as 100% T baseline.

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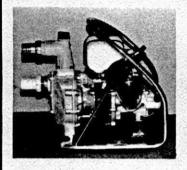


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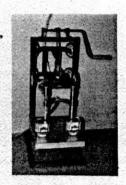
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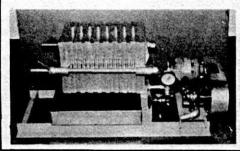
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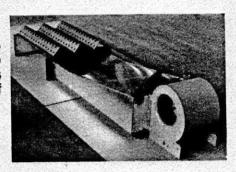
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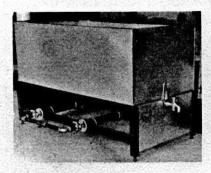
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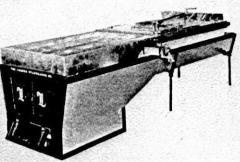
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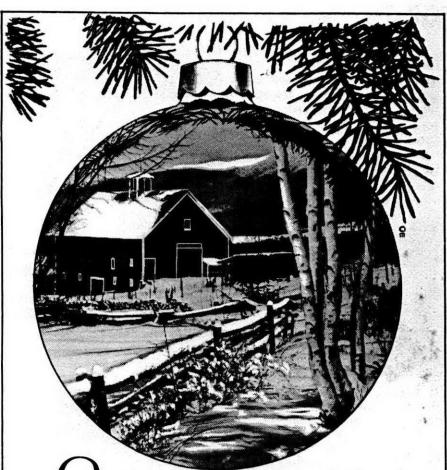
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