



# MAPLE SYRUP

## DIGEST



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# MAPLE SYRUP DIGEST

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MAPLE SYRUP COUNCIL

## DIRECTORY

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## GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



As your new president, this is my furthest dream, since coming to these meetings in the 1980s. A great honor for a small country boy. My only promise to you is that I will do my best to serve this great industry to the best of my ability. My telephone and mail is always open to any and all problems and inquiries. If I do not know the answers, I will do my best to find them.

Sincerely,

Avard Bentley  
President

## IMSI BUSINESS

Thank you to The Connecticut Maple Producers Association for hosting the wonderful convention of October 22-25, 1997. You did yourselves proud, and we of the maple industry sincerely appreciate your hospitality. We cannot wait to come back.

The primary business accomplishment at the convention was the acceptance of a joint resolution by the International Maple Syrup Institute and the North American Maple Syrup Council, concerning the limiting of lead content in maple syrup to under the internationally accepted level of 500 ppb. This action had significance

in that it was unanimously accepted, it was accomplished without outside pressures, and it was 'pro-active' in nature. The effect of this industry resolution will be for some provinces and state to leverage their regulatory agencies, to allow producers more time to meet the necessary levels required by local authorities. This is in contrast to being forced to meet some unrealistic levels in 'crisis' time. And, it is a realistic lead level, in that it matches 'internationally accepted levels.'

IMSI Officers were re-elected for another year. They are Jacques Couture (Vermont), President; Michael Herman (Quebec), Vice President; Gary Gaudette (Vermont), Treasurer; and Lynn Reynolds (Wisconsin), Executive Director.

At the banquet during the convention, the IMSI took the opportunity to thank a few deserving members, who have given extraordinary service to the IMSI and the maple syrup industry. Steve Selby (Past President—resigned from Waterloo-Small Evaporator Company), Claude Tardif (Past Executive Director—resigned from Maple Producers of Quebec Cooperative), and to a group of IMSI loyalists, John Hyndman (Past President), Don Green (Past President), and Brent Brown (Past Director), of Delta Foods International, who have shown extraordinary support for whatever cause that was good for the pure maple syrup industry. We thank all of these men for a job above and beyond 'well done.'

Lynn Reynolds  
Executive Director, IMSI

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# **JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MAPLE SYRUP INSTITUTE AND THE NORTH AMERICAN MAPLE SYRUP COUNCIL**

*in Reference to the Regulation of*  
**LEAD RESIDUES IN MAPLE SYRUP**

The International Maple Syrup Institute represents maple producers, processors, handlers and equipment manufacturers in sixteen U.S. states and Canadian provinces. The North American Maple Syrup Council represents all maple syrup producers in North America through their state or provincial associations.

Since the 1994 revelation of trace amounts of lead in maple syrup, the industry has made concerted efforts to reduce consumer exposure to lead residues in maple products. The industry recognizes the health risk of accumulated lead and possible public damage that could occur without appropriate action, though studies and research have shown that no health hazard exists through exposure to the minute levels of lead commonly found in maple products.

In the three years since lead residues were identified in maple syrup, the industry has conducted scientific literature searches, thousands of random tests to determine lead levels, many studies by scientific institutions to determine sources of lead in maple, written numerous publications for presentation to producers and conducted hundreds of educational sessions for the education of sugarmakers.

As a result of these studies, equipment manufacturers, on an international scale, have drastically changed their manufacturing methods and materials to eliminate lead from new production equipment. The International Maple Syrup Institute and the North American Maple Syrup Council have taken a leading role in coordinating efforts by equipment manufacturers in both the United States and Canada to establish uniform standards for equipment manufacture and use. Producers and processors are examining their maple equipment and practices and making changes to eliminate any possible sources of lead from the production process.

There are literally tens of thousands of maple producers that require extensive education on current technology and the risks associated with continuing old production methods. In addition, most will require new or retro-fitted maple production equipment. Such an industry wide equipment retro-fit would be impossible, in the short term, given current equipment manufacturing capacities. Best industry estimates suggest that it will take close to ten years to accomplish both the education and equipment replacement. Existing educational programs and the efforts of manufacturers have already resulted in a reduction of lead in maple syrup throughout the maple region. Maple producing states and provinces have accepted the 500ppb maximum standard as established for Canada and other countries that import pure maple syrup.

The maple industry is a very fluid industry with the majority of production being processed and handled by companies that market across state and international boundaries. The industry has great economic impact in both nations. In Vermont alone the economic impact as calculated by the Vermont Department of

Agriculture is 110 million dollars. New non-uniform governmental standards that are implemented before the industry is capable of responding could result in substantial industry relocation with disastrous economic impact on current host areas.

Therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the International Maple Syrup Institute and the North American Maple Syrup Council hereby recognize the dangers associated with lead in food products and hereby pledge to encourage their members to make the recommended changes for the safe production of maple syrup. Further, we encourage all maple producing state and provincial governments to continue working with the industry in reasonable management programs that will continue reducing lead in maple products.

**Be it further RESOLVED**, that all state and provincial governments are encouraged to work in cooperation with the industry to determine a standardized test for lead in maple syrup that is internationally accepted.

**Be it further RESOLVED**, that the maple industry requests that all maple producing state and provincial governments, based on industry improvements and aggressive educational programs since 1994, grant a ten year moratorium on any further reduction of current industry lead standards. This action would allow the time for necessary recommended changes to be implemented by tens of thousands of maple producers on a national and international scale.

**Be it further RESOLVED**, that continuous monitoring and close collaboration with the maple industry by state or provincial regulatory agencies in this process would be anticipated and encouraged in the spirit of cooperation for the public good.

Adopted on October 1997 at Meridan, Connecticut, USA at the annual meetings of the International Maple Syrup Institute and the North American Maple Syrup Council.

  
Jacques Couture, President of IMSI

  
Robert Smith, President of NAMSC



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## TOGETHER IN CONNECTICUT 97

On behalf of the Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut. We would like to thank all of the Officers, Delegates, Manufacturers and all of you who joined us in Connecticut for the 1997 Annual Meetings.

We appreciate all the hard work that the members of the Connecticut Association put into the planning and running of the convention. Thank you to the people who opened their sugarhouses for us to visit. To the people who fed us the delicious meals. We appreciate the help that many of you

gave us from other States and Provinces, along with the help of the judges, guest speakers and the financial support of the manufacturers, without all this the convention would not have been a success.

I would like to thank the members of the NAMSC for the lovely plaque that you presented to me at the banquet. This is an award that will always mean a lot to me.

Thank you again for joining us in Connecticut. We are looking forward to seeing you in Pennsylvania in 1998.

*Avis and Richard Norman*

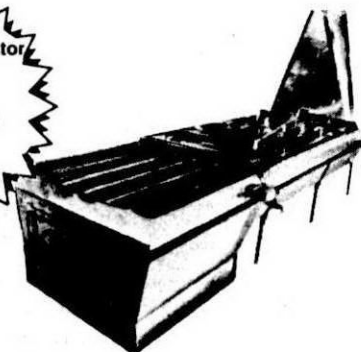


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# NEWS FROM MAINE

By Vicki Schmidt

The potential for the pure maple syrup industry never ceases to amaze me. The recent NAMSC and IMSI meetings in Meriden, CT showed that though there is diversity and sometimes opposition within the industry, optimism and belief in our commodity creates an obvious cohesiveness. I personally came away from Meriden with a refreshed opinion of the maple industry and its potential for the next decade. The advances in technologies in the areas of production and marketing are impressive. The diversity of research proposals: from computer technologies to those involving sugar maple soil characteristics attest to the challenges and opportunities facing our industry over the next few years. The conference also supported my feelings that maple people are some of the greatest folks around. I very much enjoyed renewing former friendships, meeting new maple friends, and sharing everyone's enthusiasm for the maple syrup industry.

Looking back over 1997, our summer was a successful promotional season for the Maine Maple Producers Association. In July, Hall Farms from Dixfield represented MMPA at the LaKermesse Festival in Biddeford. We had showings at several Forest and Field Days around the state and ended the season with an impressive display at Fryeburg Fair. MMPA would like to thank the Moore Family from Dover-Foxcroft for their efforts to ensure MMPA's continued success at Fryeburg. MMPA's booth at Fryeburg is part of the fair's Forestry Resources

Building and is one of its permanent features.

The start of the New Year will bring us closer to our Annual Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, January 15th, at the Augusta Civic Center. Technical sessions are scheduled for the morning, with a business meeting following in the afternoon. The MMPA Annual meeting is held in conjunction with the three day Maine Agricultural Trades Show.

MMPA is well into planning the 1999 NAMSC Conference. As I'm writing this for the December issue of the Digest, its too early for specifics, but there are some really neat things brewing. The November MMPA meeting and our Annual meeting the first of January will give us a solid preliminary agenda that we'll forward to the Digest for the next available issue. At this time we're planning on adding a section about the 1999 NAMSC meeting to our homepage on the Internet. Updates and information will be posted at <http://www.state.me.us/agriculture/marketprod/maple97>.

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## MASS. MAPLE ASSOC. ON THE INTERNET

During the busy maple production season of March and April, a temporary site was established on the Internet that had our sugarhouse directory listed. Calls to the Massachusetts Maple Phone were answered with the usual updated recorded message about the progress of the sugaring season and the caller was given the temporary web address if they wanted to gain more information via the Internet. Callers were also asked to leave a message to say whether or not they were going to access the Mass Maple information via the Internet.

An informal survey was conducted for three weeks. From March 21 until April 10th, we had over 150 callers who left messages. Many others called, listened to the recorded message but didn't leave any return message. Of those 150 calls, approximately 1/3 of the callers said they would access our information via the Internet. Out of all the callers, approximately 60% were women, and most of the calls came Wednesday through Sunday.

We have always had a problem with interested people who call the Maple Phone on a Thursday, Friday, or over the weekend, and want a copy of our sugarhouse directory right away. Sometimes we are able to fax a copy to them, but usually they have to wait for a copy to be mailed. This makes it very difficult for those who want to make plans for the immediate weekend.

Now completed, the Mass. Maple website contains the following:

- Sugarhouse Directory
- Map of state with approximate locations of sugarhouses
- List of educational sites that offer sugaring demonstrations

- Links to members who have sugarhouse or farm web sites
- The history of maple syrup
- How maple syrup is made
- North American Maple Syrup Producers Manual
- Membership information
- A list of frequently asked questions
- Information on maple sugaring and the Massachusetts economy
- Explanation of the Four Seasons of Maple
- List of educational materials available
- Maple recipes
- How to make maple syrup in your backyard
- A list of equipment suppliers
- Email connection for more information
- Links to: Mass. Ag in the Classroom, Mass. Department of Food and Agriculture, Mass. Office of Travel and Tourism, National Ag. Statistics Service, Cooperative Extension Service, etc.
- Press release information
- Color photos
- A guest visitor sign-in book
- An e-mail connection to our association

If you have access to a computer and the Internet, please visit our website at: [www.massmaple.org](http://www.massmaple.org). We would like to hear your comments and feedback, you can e-mail us at: [info@massmaple.org](mailto:info@massmaple.org).

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## **CORNELL UNIV. FUNDS SUGAR MAPLE RESEARCH & EXTENSION PROPOSAL**

*By Marianne Krasny, Lewis Staats,  
and Peter Smallidge*

Over the past thirty years, researchers in New York, Vermont, Pennsylvania and other northeastern states have identified sugar maple trees with the potential to yield sap containing above average sap sugar concentration. Additional research has demonstrated that higher sap sugar concentration is genetically determined, and can be passed on to seedling and clonal offspring. Because of their higher sap sugar concentration, the improved trees have the potential for considerably reducing the costs involved in processing sap.

More recent research at Cornell's Uihlein Sugar Maple Field Station near Lake Placid, NY, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, has improved the means for clonal propagation of the superior maple stock. Additionally, outplanting trials designed to determine the effect of tree shelters and weed control on the growth of outplanted stock are underway at the Cornell facility.

Up to this point, there has been little opportunity for extension agents and maple producers to see first-hand the results of this research. To make this research more available to producers and the public, Cornell University recently awarded a grant to a group of faculty and associates including Dr. Marianne Krasny (co-director for extension of the Cornell Sugar Maple Program), Mr. Lewis Staats (maple specialist and manager of the Uihlein

Sugar Maple Field Station), Dr. Peter Smallidge (New York State Extension Forester), Dr. Todd Dawson (co-director for research of the Cornell Sugar Maple Program), and Dr. David Deshler (Cornell Department of Education). Over the next year, the Cornell group will be conducting a number of activities including workshops on various aspects of maple syrup production for extension agents, outplanting trials in cooperation with producers, and developing a sugar maple web page that will provide information on the latest maple research. Research directed at understanding the physiological basis for sap sweetness and developing improved propagation procedures for high sap sugar genotypes will continue as part of this project. If you would like further information about this effort or have any suggestions for the sugar maple web site, please contact one of the following:

Mr. Lewis Staats, Uihlein Sugar Maple Field Station, 60 Bear Cub Road, Lake Placid, NY 12946; Phone: 518-523-9337; email: [1js20@cornell.edu](mailto:1js20@cornell.edu) or Dr. Marianne Krasny, Department of Natural Resources, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; 607-255-2827; email: [mek2@cornell.edu](mailto:mek2@cornell.edu).

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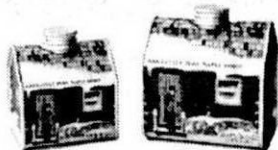
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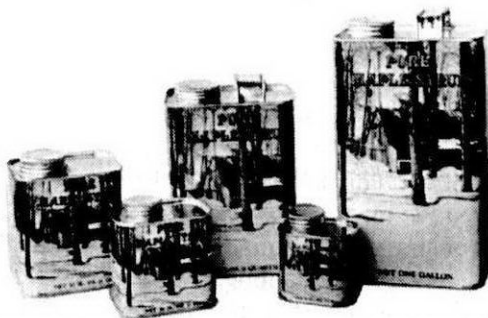
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## TWENTY SECOND ANNUAL FALL TOUR

*By John Anton*

Michigan's East shore, home to the States thriving apple, tart cherry and asparagus industries and to sports people in pursuit of Chinook and Coho Salmon and Steelhead Trout served as the host of the Twenty Second Annual Michigan Maple Syrup Associations Fall Tour.

Earl and Marilyn Girard hosted the first leg of this years tour. Located on the banks of the White River, home to some of the best trout fishing in the state, the Girards operate White River Sugar Bush, a 4000 tap operation. The sap is processed with a fuel oil fired Thunderbolt evaporator. The sugar house is absolutely spotless reflecting Earl's meticulous and painstaking skills learned over many years as a skilled craftsman in the State's vibrant auto industry. The Girards operate the business as a full time enterprise since their "retirement." Earl also serves on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Maple Syrup Association.

The five generation Centennial farm of Ron and Sue Kistler and their parents Dan and Amy Kistler operating as Kistlecrest Farm was the second stop on the Tour. In addition to the 4800 tap maple syrup enterprise the Kistlers produce tart cherries and apples from their two hundred acre farm. Five generations of Kistlers have developed the operation starting with John Kistler who initiated the maple enterprise in 1895. The Kistlers have expanded their operation from those days with the addition of four rented woods from which they collect the additional sap. The 5' x 16' Leader evaporator sitting atop a Vermont arch is fueled by propane. The Kistlers merchandise their product through their farm market, however more and more of the production is being further processed into maple cream, maple fudge and hand-dipped maple cream chocolates enhancing the value of the maple product. Ron also serves on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Maple Syrup Association.

The third stop on this years tour was the operation of Terry and Heather Coleman. This operation is a 225 tap operation which utilizes a 2' x 6'



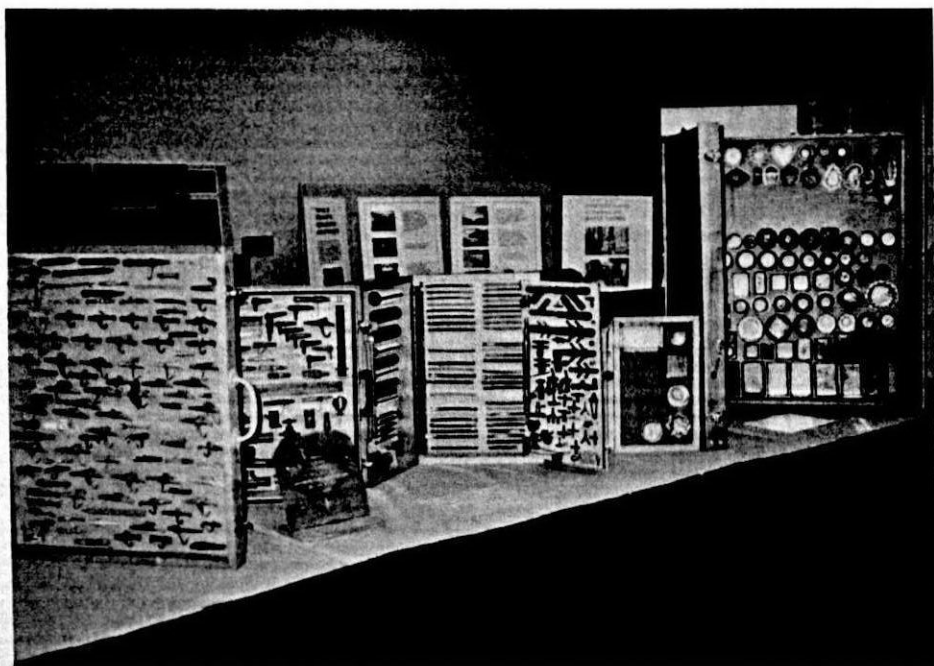
wood fired, forced air, King Evaporator. Terry's production per tap is a bit higher than the norm for many of the trees tapped are located along the roadside. The largest Sugar maple tapped has a diameter in excess of 190". The current county wide search for the largest Mason county trees has the Coleman farm with three on their farm. A 150" Black Locust rests in the front yard, the heretofore mentioned Sugar Maple and an Ash make this site unique.

A tour of the Mason County Fruit Packer Cooperative apple and cherry processing plant was conducted by the manager. This plant is the largest apple processing plant in Michigan. The bank of cherry pitters is only dwarfed by the huge -15F freezer used to store the commodities. The freezer did provide relief—though

brief—from the 86 degree outside temperature.

A dockside tour of the "Badger," a 300 foot ferry once operated by the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad (C & O) to transport rail cars across Lake Michigan to ports in Wisconsin ended the day. The ferry is the only coal fired steam powered lake going vessel on the Great Lakes. The vessel has been converted and updated to carry passenger cars and automobiles from the Port of Ludington to Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

The Michigan Maple Syrup Association wishes to express its appreciation to the hosts who made the twenty second annual fall tour a success where new ideas were gained, old acquaintances renewed and new friends found.

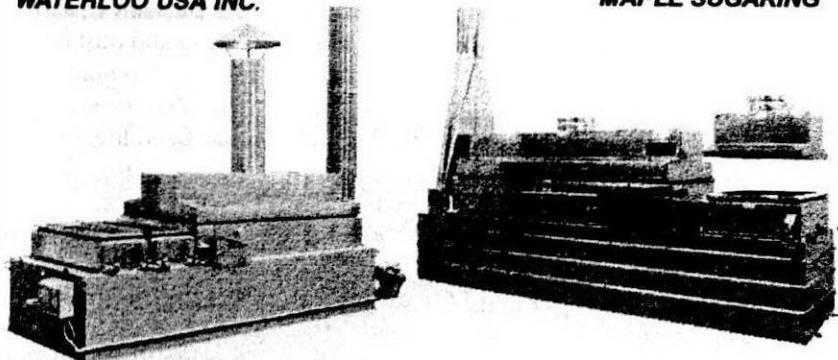


*A spile and tin mold collection on exhibit at the NAMSC 1997 meeting in Meriden, CT.*

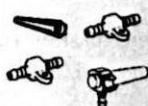
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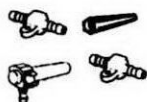
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# MAPLE SYRUP SALES HAVE GONE SKY HIGH FLYING OUR HELIUM BALLOON

*By Margo & Rollie Schaefer*

On May 15, 1997, our 8 foot yellow, round balloon arrived, with big red letters saying, "MAPLE SYRUP" on two sides. We went out in the yard to put it up the 150 feet it is to fly at; and before we could walk back to the house (100 feet away), a car drove in our driveway from Steamboat Springs, Colorado and said to us, "Anyone selling Maple Syrup that puts up a Helium Balloon must really want to sell syrup." They came into our salesroom and bought many sizes of syrup containers to give as gifts. We told them, "That's why we put it up!" And it has been fantastic for sales ever since. It brings in at least eight more people a day to buy Syrup and Maple Candy. It can be seen from 6 miles away at Spooner, Wisconsin and from Shell Lake, Wisconsin.

We place it on its' tether each morning and let it fly at 150 feet and take in down around 6 p.m. in the evening, or when the winds are more than 15 mph., according to the directions. It may be flown 'till the temperature get down to 10 degrees. We store it overnight in one of our maple storage rooms that has a 9 foot garage door.

The third day we put it up, the balloon brushed against a tiny metal piece that stuck out on the inside of the garage door and in seconds the 3 corner tear deflated the balloon of its Helium. It came with a very nice patch kit; which we used and it corrected the tear and has not leaked since.

Our Helium is delivered by Praxair and we only have to "top it off" about every third day so it flies full and is easy to read. We live on State Highway 63; 1 mile north of Shell Lake, Wisconsin, and our eleven acres around the house are bordered by lovely old Evergreens which protect us from the noise, wind and dust from the highway; but also tend to hide us, as a small business, from the cars going by; so the Balloon has been the answer to attracting more people to our Maple Syrup Ranch.

Rollie has been making Maple Syrup for 35 years—just a little bit and gave it away. Then 5 years ago he retired, and said, "I want to make the very best Maple Syrup in a big way!" So Rollie and Margo put up two 40 x 60 buildings; painted 15 gallons of paint on each and purchased \$100,000 in high-tech Maple Syrup Equipment—so we are going to work until we are 90 years old to pay for it. Margo makes her secret recipe of Maple Syrup-Hazelnut Candy, which is our best seller and in December 1996, Margo opened the Maple Syrup Ranch Bed and Breakfast and serves delicious maple cuisine for breakfast. In the Spring of 1997, 600 people came to our Sugaring Off Party.

After 5 years of working 20 hour



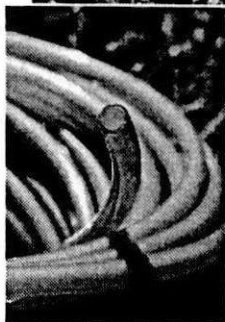
days, without a day off; flying the Balloon all summer which made Maple Syrup and candy sales soar; and wonderful travelers filling our B and B all summer—July and August 1997, we

actually made it in the black. We were just named: The Outstanding Business Man and Woman of the year and the Chamber of Commerce is giving a dinner in our honor.



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# **1997 NORTH AMERICAN MAPLE SYRUP COUNCIL 38TH ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION OCTOBER 22-25, 1997 Meriden, Connecticut**

The 38th Annual Meeting of the North American Maple Syrup Council (NAMSC) was hosted by the Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut and held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, Meriden, Connecticut.

The four day conference began on Wednesday afternoon with meetings of Maple Specialists, followed by the Director's Meeting of the North American Maple Syrup Council (NAMSC) and the International Maple Syrup Institute (IMSI). A "Welcome Dessert Social" was held in the atrium/pool area where producers had a chance to meet with friends.

On Thursday morning the Exhibits area opened promptly at 7:00 a.m. The exhibit area featured all types of equipment, supplies and marketing ideas for producers. At 8:00 a.m., busses were loaded for the Connecticut Tour. Producers and friends were greeted to a crisp and sunny New England morning with lots of nice fall color.

Tour stops included stops at Wenzels' and Wells sugar houses in Hebron, the US Patents Fire-Arms Manufacturing Company, Luddy/Taylor Connecticut Valley Tobacco Museum, Northwest Park Sugarhouse, Young Farms Sugarhouse and Moore's Sawmill. The lunch and dinner served as part of the tour were wonderful. After a full day of interesting stops the busses returned to the Ramada Hotel.

On Friday morning breakfast was served between 6:00-8:00 a.m. at poolside. At 8:00 a.m. President Robert Smith called the 38th annual meeting of the North American Maple Syrup Council to order. Those companions not attending the business meeting of the council were hosted to a tour of the Old State House and the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford. Richard Norman, President of the Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut, Shirley Ferris, Commissioner of Agriculture, State of Connecticut and Robert Smith, President of the Council made some opening remarks regarding their visit to Connecticut.

Secretary Vogt then conducted the Roll Call. Delegates present for the meeting represented: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, New Your, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Quebec, Vermont, and Wisconsin. Absent: Indiana.

The Minutes of the 1996 meeting held in Lansing Michigan were presented by Secretary Carl Vogt and approved as presented to the Delegates. President Smith then made the following appointments: Auditing Committee: Avard Bentley, Hank Peterson, and Bill Robinson; Nominations Committee: Ronald Shaw, Richard Norman, and Lynn Reynolds. At the recommendation of Russ Davenport Committee members for the Maple Hall on Fame Award Committee are: Russell Davenport, MA; Gordon Gowen, NH; Ron Shaw, ONT; Paul Richards, OH; Jim Bocky, PA; Bob Coombs, VT; Lynn Reynolds, WI; John Kroll, MN; and Lewis Staats, NY.

Delegates then gave individual reports on their specific region's production, marketing ideas, events, and conditions. The reports were most informative and interesting. The 1997 maple season ranged from good to poor with most areas between average and below average production even though most areas report more taps. Deep snow on the ground in many areas limited production in some regions. Complete reports will be available in next years minutes.

Linda Hutton representing the USDA Agricultural Statistics and Aubrey Davis reported on 1997 production figures and trends. Steve Broderick then reported on the Extension Service Maple Specialists meetings which covered a wide range of topics. A variety of topics were presented at the specialists meeting. Discussions covered everything from individual tree management to the development of a special web-page featuring Extension maple information from Canada and the U.S. The specialist plan to have the new web-page available before next years meeting.

The Treasurers Report was presented by Carl Vogt, and the Maple Research Fund Report prepared by Chris Hauge were presented to the delegates. The reports were approved pending an audit and approval by the Delegates.

Roy Hutchinson, Editor of the Maple Syrup Digest presented his annual report to the Council. Roy indicated that there has been a slight decrease in subscriptions but the Digest is doing O.K. Postage rates have increased again and so have printing costs. The Digest is published 4 times a year and members are encouraged to submit articles and stories for publication. If any state organization would like their web-site address published in the Digest, send that information to the Editor. President Smith adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m. until Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

The International Maple Syrup Institute (IMSI) held its annual meeting with President Jacques Couture presiding. Following the minutes and treasurers reports the IMSI discussed the adoption of a joint resolution in reference to the regulation of Lead Residues in Maple Syrup. The resolution was adopted by the IMSI and will be presented to the council at the continuation of their meetings on Saturday. Following some discussion, questions and comments, the Joint Resolution proposed by the IMSI regarding lead residue in maple syrup was adopted by the NAMSC.

On Friday afternoon, producers boarded busses to take them to Sleeping Giant State Park where a very interesting program on Sugarbush Thinning & Management was presented by Jerry Milne, Connecticut Division of Forestry. Glen Goodrich of Cabot, Vermont demonstrated the set-up and use of rigid tubing for sap collection. The brilliant golden reds of maple foliage outlined the dark green background of a mature white pine plantation. There were some interesting ideas presented for the beginner and seasoned sugar maker.

On Saturday morning the much needed rain was falling outside as the Council meeting continued inside. An alternative program featuring Ruth Goodrich of Vermont on Cooking with Maple was held in the morning. At the council meeting, Russ Davenport reported on the Maple Museum which is located in Croghan, New York. The museum is run by volunteers who help conduct tours

for groups on a reservation basis. The NAMSC annually contributes \$500.00 to the operation of the museum. The council thanked Russ Davenport for his contributions to the museum and the NAMSC.

The Honorary Fund of the Council was established by the generous contribution of Bob & Florence Lamb. With the passing of Bob Lamb, members were asked to keep in touch with Florence Lamb who is most interested in the activities of the industry. Awards of Recognition given by the Council are a direct result of the Honorary Fund.

Russ reported along with Randy Heiligmann that 6500 copies of the Maple Manual have been sold and a reorder is currently being reprinted. The manual has been well received by those who have used it.

President Smith then called on Lynn Reynolds to present the recommendations of the Research Review Committee. Prior to making the recommendations, Lynn indicated that Darrell Russ and David Marvin had resigned from the committee after many years of service. President Smith appointed Luc Lussier and Warren Wells to fill these vacancies. The recommendations by the committee were accepted by the council and approved for funding in 1998. They include:

Project	Funded Amount
<b>Maple Syrup Industry Computerized Information System</b>	\$6,000.00
<b>Preparation of Draft Document for Extension Publication on the Use of Steam in the Production of Maple Products</b>	\$2,000.00

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<i>Diagnostic Nutrition of Sugar Maple</i>	\$3,000.00
<i>Genetic Markers for Sap Sweetness in Sugar Maple</i>	\$3,500.00
<i>The Effects of Soil Acidification on Sugar Maple Sap, Sapwood and Foliar Aluminum, Lead and Manganese Concentrations</i>	\$3,500.00
<i>Total Funds Recommended by the Research Review Committee</i>	\$30,000.00
<b>Total Funds Available from Contributions During the Year 10/1/96 through 9/30/97 (Approximately)</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>

The Nominations Committee made the following recommendations for fiscal 1998 officers: President, Avarad Bentley, Vice President, Hank Peterson; Secretary/Treasurer, Carl Vogt; Digest Editor, Roy Hutchinson. A motion was made that the nominations be closed and the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the officers. The nominations committee also made recommendations for Life & Associate members which were accepted by the council.

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Under new business a motion was made that a committee be established to review the potential of having a contest for association newsletters. The committee will report at next years meeting in Pennsylvania.

A By-Laws review committee was established to review and correct any inconsistencies. The committee will forward its recommendations to council delegates prior to next years annual meeting.

President Robert Smith was recognized for his service as president of the council. Bob commented that being president was "a highlight in his maple career." The council also recognized the fine job that the Maple Syrup Producers of Connecticut did in hosting the 38th Annual Meeting.

There being no further business, President Smith adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m. The Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut held its annual meeting where a number of issues of local interest were discussed.

Following lunch, two technical workshops were held for attendees. Internet Basics was presented by Jeff Hallowell. Topics included how to get on the Internet, finding information, and setting up your own web site. Larry Myott & Sumner Williams gave a presentation on how to properly use a filter press and diatomaceous earth for filtering maple syrup.

The exhibits area, trade show and poster rooms were closed at 5:00 p.m. A social hour was held at poolside prior to the Saturday Night Annual Banquet. Attendees enjoyed a fine meal and dessert. Door prizes were awarded and Dick Haas of Sugarhill Container presented a \$300.00 check to the lucky person who guessed how many pennies were in the new "cabin container." Lynn Reynolds, Executive Director of the IMSI presented recognition awards to John Hyndman, Don Green and Brent Brown for their assistance to IMSI and the Maple Industry.

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Carl Vogt, Secretary of the NAMSC presented recognition awards to Darrell Russ, David Marvin, Robert Smith and Avis Norman for their service to the council. Awards for the best photographers in a number of categories were made as follows: **Sugarbush Scenes**, Russ Davenport, MA; **Visitors to Your Sugar Place**, Mike Girard, CT; **Maple People on the Job**, Charity Folk, CT; **Sugarhouses**, William Brown, OH.

Awards for the maple syrup entries were as follows: **Dark Amber**, Kirstin Waddell, MN; **Medium Amber**, Dale Young, CT; **Light Amber**, Doris Morin, Quebec; **Grand Champion**, Doris Morin, Quebec.

Following a fine dinner and awards presentations, Don Sineti entertained the group with stories, songs and music from the old days. His deep clear bass voice was wonderful to listen too. The audience was involved with a few of the songs and did quite well keeping up with the leader. A few farewell remarks by MSPAC President Richard Norman and the banquet ended until next year.

The meeting was well done in all respects and the members of the North American Maple Syrup Council wish to thank the Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut for hosting the 38th Annual Meeting. We look forward to seeing all of you in Pennsylvania for the 1998 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Vogt, Secretary



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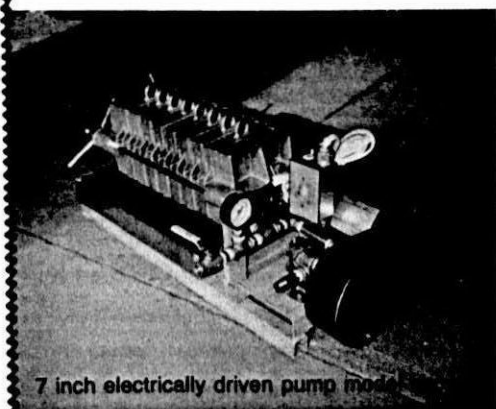
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NNYMP 298	Paul Titus
NNYMP 281	Paul Titus
NYFB 106	Paul Titus
NYFB 155	Matthew Van Glad
NNYMP 90	Neil Wright
NNYMP 97	Earl Edwards
NYFB 181	David Shrauger
Croghan 335	Neil Wright
NNY Cro. 821	Earl Edwards
NNYMP 213	The Sugarman
NYFB 253	Delta Foods
NNYMP 101	Peter Kanik
NYFB 283	Victor Putnam
NNYMP 233	The Sugarman
NYFB 108	Carol LaTourette
NNYMP 222	John Kolemba

Any other drums that are out there in circulation and belong in Lewis County may be returned to us and we will see that the owner gets them. There will be a finder's fee. If anyone knows where these drums are, please contact Elizabeth Cheney at 315/346-1506. Your help in locating these and other drums is greatly appreciated.

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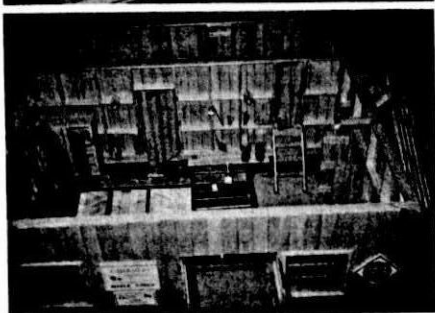
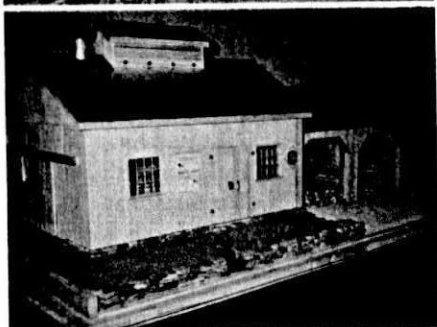
*Constructed by Michael A. Girard*

The original sugarhouse built by George Brown in 1887 is located on Number Nine Road, Heath, Mass.. The Sugaring operation has been operated by Mike Girard since 1977. A 1,000 tap sugarbush is behind and above the sugarhouse. Evaporator is a wood fired 5 x 12 Small Brothers raised flue. There is a stone foundation, gravel floor and the woodshed holds thirty cord. The woodshed was added on a few years ago but the basic structure of the sugarhouse is very much as it was one hundred-ten years ago.

### *A few details about the Sugarhouse*

This is a scale model replica of a Maple Sugarhouse built in 1887. This 1/12 scale model authentically represents the sugaring operation as we operate it today and have for the past twenty years. There is very little compromise in scale, construction, and detail on this model. I have over 400 hours of time and about \$300 in raw materials invested so far in this project. The lumber was all cut to scale on a table saw from 1 x 8, #2 pine boards. As you can see there are still unfinished items such as the

evaporator pans, smoke stack, and some of the detail work. I started the model in 1994 and I may get it done in a few years. We wouldn't want to rush things.



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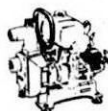
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**As of September 30, 1997**

Please send all contributions to:  
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# 1998 MAPLE PRODUCTION SCHOOL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 1998

HOSTED BY

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

CORNELL DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

CORNELL MEDIA SERVICES

NEW YORK STATE MAPLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

The 1998 Maple Production School will be broadcast via satellite from Cornell University on Saturday, January 24, 1998. The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will end at 1:00 p.m. (Eastern time) with a short break mid-way through the broadcast. The live broadcast time period provides local sites with ample time for lunch and/or live programming at the individual sites. The school is offered as an in-service program for Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE); therefore there is no charge for CCE sites to receive the transmission. For out of state and non CCE sites within NY, registration for the program is \$75 per site before January 9, 1998 and \$150 after January 9, 1998 (registration deadline January 16, 1998).

The tentative program agenda is as follows:

**Highlights of the Penn State Maple Extension program** by Ms. Anni Davenport, Maple Syrup/Wood Processing Extension Assistant.

**Eutypella canker and sugar maple borer in the sugarbush** will be presented by Dr. Paul Dendak, Principal Forest Economist, USDA Forest Service, Durham, New Hampshire

**Quality control of pure maple products.** Gary Holden, Farm Products Inspector, New York Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, will discuss common examples that can effect the quality of maple products and provide the corrective measures to ensure high quality for the consumer.

**Design and construction of a modern sugarhouse** will be covered from ground breaking to finish by Tony Corwin of South Meadow Farm, Lake Placid, NY

**Maple orchards—symbols of sustainable maple operations.** Ron Hubbs, maple producer from Prince Edward County in Ontario, Canada will comment on the trials and rewards of establishing and maintaining a maple orchard.

**Marketing maple syrup and other maple products**—Maple producers Ms. Ruth Ann Shaw, Hawkestone, Ontario, and Ms. Susanne Robinson, Auburn, Ontario will share their years of experience in production and marketing of maple products.

**For registration or more information about the program, you may call:**

**Lewis J. Staats (518)523-9337 or Ella Ellman (607)255-2814**

**For information regarding the technical aspects of the satellite broadcast you may contact:**

**Glen Palmer (607)255-8162**

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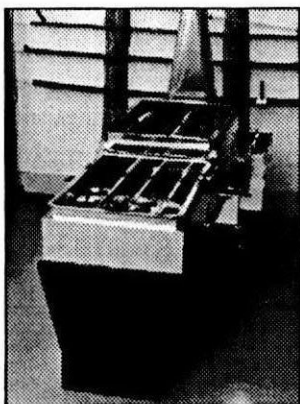
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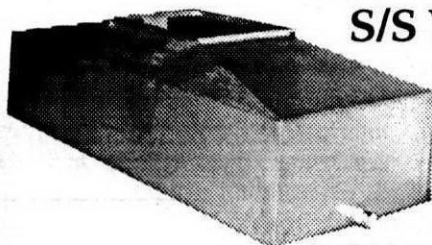
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# COMING EVENTS

## **MAINE MAPLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**

Thursday, January, 15th, 1998

Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, ME

held in conjunction with the Maine Agricultural Trades Show, Jan. 13-15th.

For more information contact Vicki Schmidt 207-377-4904

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## **CENTRAL NEW YORK MAPLE CONFERENCE**

January 17, 1998

at the Delaware County BOCES, Rt. 206 Masonville, NY

9:30 to 3:30

For more information contact: Tom Kaufman 607-746-6215

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## **MASSACHUSETTS MAPLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**

Saturday, January 17, 1998

10:30 a.m., Mohawk Trail High School, Rte. 112, Buckland, MA

For more information contact: 413-628-3912

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## **IMSI MEETING**

February 2, 1998

Burlington, VT

For more information contact: Lynn Reynolds 414-779-6672

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## **HEBRON'S 8TH ANNUAL MAPLE FESTIVAL**

Saturday and Sunday, March 14th and 15th

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Junction of Routes 66 and 85 in Hebron

For more information contact: 860-228-9503

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## **WARKWORTH MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL**

March 14-15, 1998

Warkworth, Ontario

For more information contact: Alice Potter 705-924-2057

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## **NEW YORK STATE MAPLE TOUR**

### **CHENANGO COUNTY**

July 23, 24, 25, 1998

Please Note—This is Thurs. evening, Friday and Saturday

To be based at the Eaton Center, Norwich, NY

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## **1998 NAMSC and IMSI MEETINGS**

October 21-24, 1998—Titusville, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

For more information contact: Ruby & Burton Kimball 814-739-2720

9691 Kimball Road, Wattsburg, PA 16442

## REMINDER

### Research Proposal Guidelines

Research projects may be submitted for consideration based on the following guidelines:

(1) Proposals must be received no later than July 1, 1998 for consideration in 1998. Proposals received after that date will be considered in 1999.

(2) Proposals shall be complete and detailed in content. However, proposals shall contain a short concise cover statement briefly explaining cost, scope, objective, procedure, and anticipated value to the maple industry.

(3) Proposals shall contain detailed estimated cost breakdown, within the detailed report.

(4) Proposals shall be submitted with a minimum of forty (40) complete copies.

(5) Proposals must contain a complete reference section listing and explaining any similar or duplicating research previously accomplished. Proposals for duplication of previously completed research must contain detailed explanations of why such duplication is warranted.

(6) Results or progress of funded projects must be presented annually at the convention of the NAMSC and must be published in the Maple Syrup Digest as soon as possible after completion.

(7) Send proposals to: Lynn H. Reynolds, Research Committee, North American Maple Syrup Council W10010 Givens Road, Hortonville, WI 54944.

Remember: July 1 Deadline.

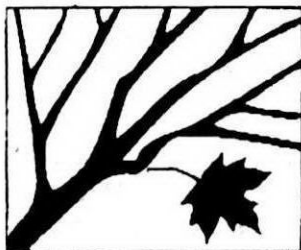
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