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COVER: Retired Sugarhouse on the
"Golden Road" tour. (Photo Mike
Girard)

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



It is with humility that I accept this responsibility for the next year. From a start in sugaring in Wisconsin -oh-so many years ago to this, is a great reward indeed.

As we head into the next century we in the maple industry face a number of challenges. Number one is the adulteration problem worldwide. The NAMSC and the IMSI have made great strides in identifying and solving this ongoing problem.

The other area of concern is the potential threat of the invasion of the Asian Long Horned Beetle. Work has already begun on the importation control in Canada and the US . Other control methods are being developed.

Our industry is alive and well. We can not let our guard down to any changes or challenges that may come along. It is heartwarming to see the NAMSC and the IMSI working together to solve our common problems.

At the Maine meeting I noticed a good number of younger people that are getting involved in maple. Note: Anyone younger than me in considered young. This is good for our industry. We should all try to help these younger people to get them off to a good start. Support your local maple associations.

I want to thank Arvard Bentley for two years of leadership and pointing me in the right direction. I only hope my term goes as smoothly as yours did. Thanks, Arvard.

I want to thank all the Maine Maple Producers that made for a successful meeting in Maine this year.

If I can be of any help or assistance please call or write.

Happy Holidays and Happy Millennium to all.

Sincerely,

Hank Peterson
President

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MAINE MAPLING

By Dawn Bolduc

The fortieth annual NAMSC/IMSI meeting is over but not forgotten. 350 to 400 people saw that "Maine will have it all in 99" — capacity attendance at meetings and functions — all the heavy-weights of the maple industry — as well as some pouring rain and a 3:30 a.m. fire alarm — the exhibit area was sold to capacity, and the Maine Maple Producers Association thanks these businesses for their strong support and generous door prizes, especially the handsome grand prize of maple Canadian whiskey from Les Crouchons, Inc.

Ninety-three shipped out on the "Tour after the Tour" a seven hour drive from Portland to Northern Somerset County, over company logging roads to the remote Pittston Farm. We were greeted by moose, deer, migrating geese and an endless selection and quantity of down-home cookin'.

An early start put us at the Golden Road sugaries in twenty minutes. Camps varied in size from 11,000 taps to 84,000 taps. The Golden Road Coop folks all turned out beyond expectations. Usually three generations of a family treated, demonstrated, explained, and entertained us in their ways. Our genial hosts were J.R. Lamontagne, Bertrand Bisson, Raymond and Cyrille Turgeon, Donat Bisque, Serge Gilbert, Bernard Bisson and Claude and Aimee Bisson, Serge Poirier, Paquet & Faucher, Patty Page's camp managed by Richard Turgeon and Jean Claude Pare.

Most sugaries have been in operation a hundred years (one new one, three

years). Technology has brought changes that allow camps to produce more on the same ground that 311 camps used in 1935. Present arrangements with the new landowners does not allow for any expansion. The new owners are investors not connected with the wood processing mills and therefore their prime concern is a rapid profit return. One location abutting a sugarbush has already been cut beyond use for another half century.

Each camp is totally self contained — diesel electric power plants, vehicles for every job and family home areas. All the boilers are 6' x huge! Some boil off the front, most work with a finisher. It isn't difficult to see a seven figure investment at each camp. Whole families stay from January to May, kids are trucked or snowsledded to the border crossing where they are met by their school bus. The Ag Census Report Service from Concord, NH was on the tour and they were surprised to see that their records needed a "tweak." It was an "eye-popper" for all — although Larry M's was a "button-popper" after many maple treats, especially Gran Mere Lamontagne's maple pies.

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WISCONSIN

By Roland Jorns

Wisconsin came up with a good size delegation at the National and International Convention held in Portland, Maine. We all appreciate the effort of the Maine people to put up such a wonderful program.

It all started when my wife, Donna said the Maine registration papers have arrived. Maine has an additional three days program, with a bus tour up into the North Country. My answer was you better just sign up for the regular National and International program. I have promised my moose hunting partners that we would hunt for five days and then I would have to go home for the Maple Conventions. That I would quickly take in the convention and hurry home again and resume our moose hunting in Canada, (if we didn't get a moose in the first five days). Well the first day of the hunt produced only tracks, the second, third and fourth it rained constantly. That night at mess tent cousin Arnold said if it is raining yet tomorrow you better pull out so you won't have to drive so hard to get to Maine. Well what do you know; the fifth day the sun was shining. My son Stuart took the four wheeler down about six miles in the boonies and came back at noon and said, "well we can go home now, after you help me get a fifteen hundred pound moose out." Well we arrived home about 3:30 a.m., and the wife greeted me with "oh good, your home. I have the suburban all packed, we've got to leave early tomorrow morning or we won't get there in time."

I took the Canadian route out. I came out of Canada at Cornwall, crossed

New York into Vermont, New Hampshire then Maine. I had made such good time going this route that I figured we might have a little extra time to see some of the scenery, we drove through a few parks. I've got to say the White Mountain Park is really beautiful.

Seeing I didn't have to go back into Canada for moose hunting, I tried to get on the bus tour to Northern Maine, which according to the number of sign-ups was totally filled. But pleading with the Bolduc's (Dawn & Al) gave us some hope, when they said, if there is a cancellation, we would have a chance. Well, we got the chance, about a six-hour bus ride through bush roads, saw beautiful timber and several moose. We stayed at the Pittston Farm, had great sleeping quarters and wonderful food, all we could eat.

It was quite an ordeal to see Sugar Bushes with over one hundred thousand taps on these hilly slopes, all on tubing. Nearly all of the families spoke French and gave out gifts of maple products, they were all really swell folks. Our guide Al Bolduc understood and spoke French, which made communication quite easy. I cannot forget our bus driver, Bob Rogers, who also made the trip so pleasurable. Now, these last two guys I mentioned said the fishing up in Maine was terrific and if I ever got up there to look them up. So Al and Bob, that is why I asked for your calling cards, don't be surprised if someday your phone rings and a guy says I'm from Wisconsin, how about a weekend fishing up in Maine.

So on behalf of all the Wisconsin folks thank you Maine for a wonderful convention, and a Merry Christmas to all Maple Producers.

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WORKING FOR THE INDUSTRY: IMSI

Our hosts at the Maine annual meeting of the IMSI had lots of fun putting on their show and making sure that their guests had fun, too. Tours to small sugar operations in the Portland area were enjoyed as were several spouse activities and a special tour to a revolutionary fort in Portland Bay.

Most impressive however, was the "Golden Road" tour to the largest maple producing area in the United States. Maine's master tour director Alfred Bolduc, with his assistants, did a great job in lining up the facilities and tour stops to provide the 90 attendees an excellent educational opportunity. If you ever have the opportunity to visit the northern Maine woods, take it. In a 20 mile radius, there are 1 million taps. To put this in perspective, that is about equal to 1/2 of the total number of taps in the entire State of Vermont.

Producers are on property leased from the big timber companies at about 25 cents per tap, but their leases are quite tenuous — at one year at a time. We visited eight businesses with the number of taps ranging from 11,000 to 84,000. These Canadian residents all live in Quebec, just a short distance away, and some have operated these leased sugar camps for generations. One family has operated the sugarbush for more than 100 years.

If you should decide to visit the Golden Road (its actual name), be prepared for the back country. It's not in the boonies, it's the other side of the boonies. There are hundreds of

miles of well maintained (by the lumber companies who own them) roads and many hazards awaiting the unsuspecting. Large timber and pulp trucks have the right of way at all times and although the roads are two lanes, the bridges are one lane and don't have side rails.

My hat is off to the Maine committee for all your efforts. It's a big job and a learning experience with a steep curve. Thank you.

At the annual meeting of the IMSI on October 23 in Portland, Maine the following resolution was passed unanimously:

"Since maple sugar makers and processors are constantly seeking additional and replacement storage for maple syrup, the IMSI makes the following recommendation:

That any storage containers, being examined for purchase, have documentation of food grade status from the manufacturer. The IMSI further recommends that no storage containers be recycled to maple syrup storage without legal documentation of current food grade status."

This decision was made after several discussions on the use of recycled barrels and those currently being advertised for use in the maple industry. Not only are the ads being found to be deceptive, but false. The current ads, of California, tend to make one believe that they are food grade when in fact they are not and probably cannot be made so. They contained a cleaning solvent for the computer chip industry, to date the seller has not provided the MSDS sheet of the product they contained or any information on food grade status.

Word has been received that they

are being banned by the Vermont Department of Agriculture and cannot be sold in the State of Vermont. Further details are available from the Department at (802) 828-2500.

Sumner Williams, 52, Assistant Director of the University of Vermont Proctor Maple Research in Underhill, Vermont was killed in a tractor accident at the farm on October 11. At the jointly held meetings of the IMSI and NAMSC in Portland, Maine, both organizations honored his memory and commitment to the international maple industry with contributions to the UVM Proctor Maple Research Center's newly founded research endowment fund. The IMSI contributed \$5,000, followed by a \$5,000 contribution from the NAMSC research fund.

Williams was a 23 year employee of the university managing the sugarbush and overseeing the 200 acre research forest. Sugarmakers throughout the maple world looked to him as an expert resource and regularly invited him to speak at international meetings.

He leaves his wife Susan, daughter Catherine and son Sumner. Memorial contributions can be made to the Maple Research Endowment, Proctor

Maple Research Center, PO Box 233, Underhill Center, Vermont 05490.

IMSI President Michael Herman was re-elected to a one year term at the annual meeting in Maine. Herman is partner with his brother in Turkey Hill Maple of Waterloo, Quebec. He is an international player in the gift shop and export market. Vice President is Mary Fogle Douglass of Okemos, Michigan. Mary is President of the Michigan Maple Producers Association and a partner in Sugarbush Supplies, the major supplier of equipment in Michigan. Gary Gaudette, President of Leader Evaporator Co. in St. Albans, Vermont was re-elected treasurer. Larry Myott of the University of Vermont Extension was elected Executive Secretary, a position he has held on an interim basis for the past year.

Larry Myott
Executive Secretary

Contact IMSI President Michael Herman at Turkey Hill in Waterloo, Qc at: (450) 539-4822, FAX (450) 539-1561. Larry Myott can be reached at (802) 656-5417, FAX (802) 656-5422, email at: Larry.Myott@uvm.edu

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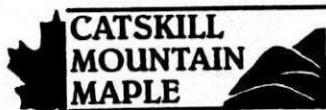
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IMSI International Maple Syrup Contest winners were presented awards at the annual banquet in October. Jacques Couture, left, chair of the contest presented the award plaque to **Specialty and Gift Shop Category** winner Dakin Farm of Ferrisburgh, VT, represented by Sam Cutting III. He also presented the **International Category** award to Citadelle Maple Syrup Cooperative of Plessisville, Quebec. Luc Lussier, General Manager and Rene Ares, President of the Citadelle Maple Syrup Producers Cooperative. IMSI members who are wholesalers or packers are eligible. (Larry Myott Photo)



Gary Gaudette, President of Leader Evaporator Co. in St. Albans, VT and Treasurer of the International Maple Syrup Institute was presented the first annual Lynn Reynolds International Maple Leadership Award at the annual Banquet. Luc Lussier, past president of the Institute and Jacques Couture, also Past President, presented the award citing his long term commitment to international development and his international leadership roles. (Larry Myott Photo)



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— Update on the Asian Longhorned Beetle —

By Bruce L. Parker

& Margaret Skinner

University of Vermont

Entomology Research Laboratory

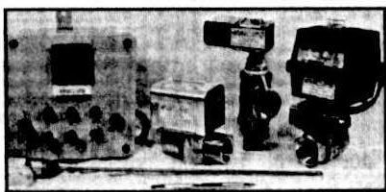
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In the last issue we reported on this troublesome insect from China that was first discovered attacking maples in 1996. Because of increased trade with Asian countries an infestation could occur anywhere. The insect arrived in wood packing material and you should realize that it is virtually impossible for government officials to inspect all containers at our ports of entry. Hundreds of containers arrived every single day.

As you are aware significant infestations have been found in and around New York City and Chicago. Officials are trying to eradicate this pest by destroying all trees that show signs of an infestation. In New York, as of the end of August — 3,843 trees have been cut down; in Chicago, as of early October — 1,114 have been destroyed. Of concern to sugarmakers is that the Asian Longhorned beetle especially likes sugar maple trees. We do not know what impact this pest might have if it was to become established in sugarbushes. We do know that it kills maple trees and can do it in a matter of several years.

The people with the fancy academic degrees or noteworthy job titles have not been the ones to find and report the infestations. It has been the homeowner or the "man or woman on the

street" that has taken notice and brought this significant problem to our attention. So let's not be complacent, be aware of the situation and keep your eyes peeled for any indication that your maples may be under attack by this insect. Although it is starting to get a little chilly you should look for large round exit holes (about 1/2 inch diameter) on the trunk, branches or exposed roots, any large unexplained piles of saw dust around the base of the tree or where the branches meet the main stem, or rather small round or oval wounds in the bark where the female beetles chew shallow indentations to lay eggs in. The adult beetles are showy insects large and noticeable — mostly black with white spots and long white and black banded antennae. Pictures are found in the last edition of the *Maple Syrup Digest*. If you think you have found one, save it and then give us a call on our hot line (802) 656-5434.



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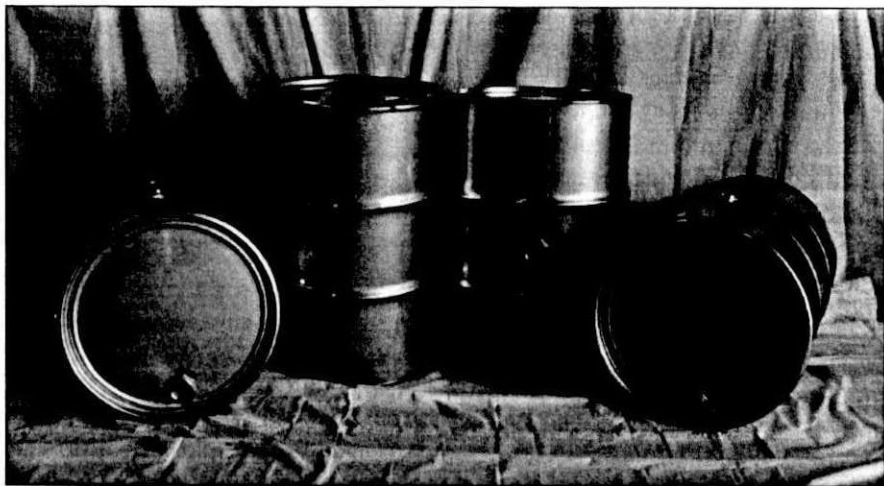
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UIHLEIN SUGAR MAPLE GINSENG RESEARCH PROJECT

By Bob Beyfuss

*Cornell Cooperative Extension Agent
Greene County, Cairo NY, and
Lewis Staats*

*Cornell Cooperative Extension
Maple Specialist, Lake Placid, NY*

Wild American Ginseng and sugar maple share a very similar geographic range in North America. Understory plants, particularly herbaceous perennials growing beneath the sugar maples in the Uihlein are the same species that are often associated with wild ginseng populations growing elsewhere. In April of 1998 a soil sample was collected from the uihlein Sugar Bush and analyzed for nutrient content at Cornell's Soil Testing Laboratory. The soil appeared to have very similar nutrient characteristics as soils in which healthy populations of wild ginseng are found in New York State.

Although many regions of New York State have a long anecdotal history of wild ginseng growing within the region, the area near Lake Placid does not seem to share this history based on conversations with long time local residents. The following project was initiated to determine if ginseng could be cultivated in a sugar maple forest in the Lake Placid region.

During the summer of 1998 six test plots approximately 6 feet wide by 33 feet long were prepared within the Uihlein sugar bush by removing the surface vegetation and rototilling the soil to a depth of six inches. Soil samples were collected and analyzed from each of the six plots. Calcium levels

varied substantially from plot to plot. Calcium is a crucial element for healthy ginseng growth. Calcium levels ranged from 430 pounds per acre to 1710 pounds per acre. P, K and Mg levels were not significantly different from plot to plot.

Each of the six plots were divided into three sections. Each plot was planted exactly the same. Each received two ounces (approximately 700 seed) of ginseng seed from a commercial source, two ounces of seed from a different non-commercial source, and approximately 50 one year old ginseng rootlets. In addition, each of the plots, except a control plot, received a different rate of gypsum (calcium sulfate) to increase the calcium level in the soil.

Ginseng seed germination and growth will be monitored over the next few years. Preliminary observations are encouraging.



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INVESTIGATING MANGANESE TOXICITY ON SUGAR MAPLE SEEDLINGS IN SOLUTION CULTURE

By Wilhelm Kogelmann and
William E. Sharpe

INTRODUCTION

In 1997 and 1998 field data were collected from two contrasting sugar maple stands in Potter County, Pennsylvania. The two stands differed markedly in their soil pH. Data collected included foliar chemistry, sap chemistry, dendrochemistry, and plant available fraction of the soil nutrients (based on .01 M SrCl_2 extraction). Upon analysis of the data it became apparent that the levels of manganese

were strikingly different between the sites for all variables (foliage, sap, soil, and wood) and it was the more acidic site that had the high levels of Mn. To cite some data: the acidic site (soil pH 3.7) had foliar Mn concentrations ranging from 1072 $\mu\text{g/g}$ to 6768 $\mu\text{g/g}$ mean 4061 $\mu\text{g/g}$ while the less acidic site (pH 5.15) showed significantly lower concentrations at 273 $\mu\text{g/g}$ to 1069 $\mu\text{g/g}$ (mean 481 $\mu\text{g/g}$). Aside from pH, electron activity, pe, can influence Mn availability. Under strong reducing conditions Mn oxides are reduced to the Mn^{2+} (aq) form, which is readily taken up by plants from the soil solution. So it was feasible that differences in pe among the sites could explain the Mn differences observed, but soil pits excavated on both sites revealed no mottling which would be expected if there was periodic flooding and reducing conditions. In addition to this, the



5th Annual New York



Maple Producers Conference

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site with the higher Mn levels was very well drained so it's unlikely that pe is playing a role in Mn availability. The site with the higher acidity contained much higher levels of Mn, but the consequences for sugar maple health are unknown. There exists an abundance of literature on Mn toxicity and its mechanisms but the vast majority of these studies were done on agronomic crops such as the common bean and tobacco, not on trees. Those studies that did use woody plants typically utilized conifers, thus there exists a paucity of information on the effects of elevated Mn levels on hardwoods. Moreover, it is not known how different species react to elevated Mn or how responses vary within a species. Also, some researchers have provided evidence that light intensity exacerbates Mn toxicity. To address this question we proposed the following experiment.

EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

A greenhouse solution culture experiment was determined to be the best method for this research question. Such a research environment offers the maximum amount of control over confounding variables that otherwise would be present in the field or in soil culture. A randomized block split plot design was chosen for the experiment. This design was akin to a factorial experiment in that all possible combinations of treatments were used. Three treatment types utilized included: light, species, and Mn concentrations. For the light three treatment levels were used: Ambient and two levels of shade. Three levels of solution Mn concentrations (control, medium and high) were used. When we attempted the experiment we tried several trial

Mn concentrations, but we were unable to provoke a clear response. Lastly for the species treatment we used 1-2 year old bare root nursery stock seedlings of sugar maple.

The experimental design called for three replicates (blocks), which were intended to account for experimental error due to position in the greenhouse. Each treatment appeared once in each block.

RESULTS

A problem developed with lead crinkle and deformed leaves. These abnormalities occurred when leaves were emerging. This was at a time when the culture solution was fresh so it wasn't due to an elemental deficiency. Oddly, some seedlings were healthy while others deformed. Perhaps this was due to genetic differences among the seedlings. Several sugar maples displayed chlorotic spotting after a few weeks in solution. There were instances of seemingly healthy seedlings growing next to chlorotic ones in the same solution. Fresh growth solution did not correct the

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problem and many of these seedlings died. The root systems of these seedlings grew prolifically and they were highly intertwined. This also could have affected the seedlings growth and response to treatment. Lastly, the changing ionic strength of the solution as water was transpired and nutrients taken up was a problem. We could not grow sugar maple seedlings in solution culture.

As the foregoing indicates, our attempts at solution culture of sugar maple were unsuccessful; consequently, we could not complete an evaluation of manganese toxicity to sugar maple seedlings as planned. We are in the process of setting up another experiment using a native soil as a growth

medium and varying manganese concentrations by addition of manganese chloride in different amounts. Hopefully, this will result in a meaningful evaluation of manganese toxicity to sugar maple seedlings.

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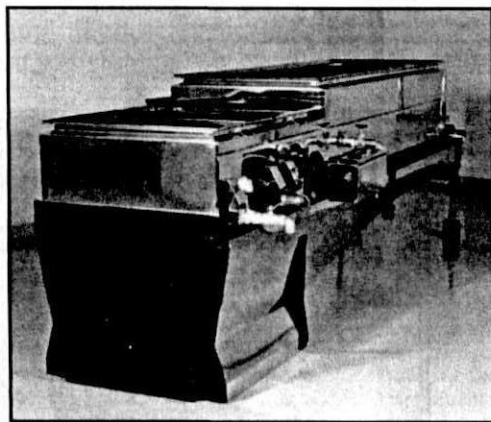
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1999 NORTH AMERICAN MAPLE SYRUP COUNCIL 40TH ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION OCTOBER 20-23, 1999 Portland Maine

The 40th Annual Meeting of the North American Maple Syrup Council (NAMSC) was hosted by the Maine Maple Producers Association and was held at the Radisson Eastland Hotel in Portland, Maine.

The four day conference began on Wednesday afternoon with a meeting of the Director's of the North American Maple Syrup Council (NAMSC) a "Welcome Social" was held on Wednesday evening for all visitors to the convention. After greeting old friends and meeting new ones the attendees were off to bed getting some sleep after a day of travel. For those staying at the hotel an early "wake up call" at 4:00 a.m. from the fire alarm shortened the rest time a bit. An overheated duct in the basement heating system caused a bit of smoke and the alarm. By 4:30 a.m. everyone was back in their room and hopefully getting some much needed rest.

Following a complete breakfast buffet the NAMSC meeting opened with a welcome by Robert Smith, Delegate and Past President of the NAMSC. Bob's comments were followed by a warm welcome to Maine from the Commissioner of Agriculture Mr. Robert Spear.

NAMSC President Avar Bentley asked Secretary Carl Vogt to conduct the Roll Call. Delegates present for the meeting represented: Connecticut, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, New York, Nova Scotia, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Quebec, Vermont, and Wisconsin. This represents all of the members of the Council.

Following the Roll Call, President Bentley asked that the audience take a moment of silence in memory of Sumner Williams who died after a tractor mishap at the Proctor Maple Research Center just a few days before the annual meeting.

The Minutes of the 1998 meeting held in Titusville, Pennsylvania were presented by Secretary Carl Vogt and approved as presented to the Delegates. President Avar Bentley then made the following appointments: Auditing Committee — Hank Peterson, Bill Robinson, Roger Sage, Nominations Committee — Ronald Shaw, Robert Smith, and Richard Norman.

President Avar Bentley then asked the Delegates to give individual reports on their specific region's production, marketing ideas, events, and conditions. The reports were most informative and interesting. For the most part the 1999 maple season ranged from good to poor with most areas between average and below average production even though most areas report more taps. The ice storm that damaged or destroyed many sugar bushes in the northeastern states and provinces took its toll on production. However, some of the areas that did not produce in 1998 are back on line in 1999.

With 100% attendance by all representative states and provinces, it was inter-

esting to listen to the variety of activities and projects being carried out by the industry. From the Big-E in Massachusetts, the \$950.00 pint (at auction) of Ohio syrup, to the cooking of syrup in Washington, the Delegates presented a wide array of ideas for Y2K. President Bentley adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m. so that participants could take part in the Delegate/Spouse Tour.

At 10:00 a.m. everyone boarded the busses for a trip through the narrow streets of Portland, once known as Forest City. The tour continued to South Portland and on to the beautiful rugged seacoast and the first commissioned lighthouse in the U.S., Portland Head Light. The weather was sunny with ample fall color along the coast.

After traveling west of Portland the group arrived at Smiling Hill Farm, where Roger Knight gave a very interesting address about the area and the changes that have taken place. Roger and his family continue an ever expanding roll in Agri-Tourism. They have a fine herd of cattle, a retail ice cream and dairy plant (using glass bottles), ski trails, a petting farm and a large sawmill operation which specializes in the production of white pine cabin logs and other products. Rogers' enthusiasm is catching and his stories were very interesting. After spending about an hour at Smiling Hill Farm it was off to lunch where everyone was treated to wonder and filling buffet from "soup to nuts."

After lunch it was off to Tom and Doreen Benson's "Lovers Lane Sugarhouse" in Gorham to see how they are recovering from a "micro-burst" wind that occurred in 1998. The storm swept away 400 taps and 16 acres of sugarbush and other woodland. Consulting Forester Everet Towle told how the Benson's were able to salvage the wood after the storm and suggested what maples could be tapped in the future. A "Maple Sundae" topped off the visit and it was on to the Russ Parsons farm, located a few miles away.

The Parson's family milk 60 Holstein cows and produce maple syrup as an additional crop. They are currently expanding their operation and adding onto the sugarhouse. This addition was prompted by the 1500+ visitors who flock to the farm the fourth Sunday in March for "Maine Maple Sunday." Visitors enjoy seeing the maple operation, and of course, purchase some of their fine syrup at the point of production. After some brief comments by the Parsons' it was all aboard for the scenic ride back to the hotel.

After dinner some of the participants boarded busses and traveled south of Portland to Freeport, the home of L.L. Bean and other world known outdoor stores.

After a fine buffet breakfast at the hotel, the NAMSC meeting resumed at 10:00 a.m. Mike Girard passed out the new By-laws which were adopted in 1998 at Titusville, Pennsylvania. The new fiscal year for the NAMSC begins September 1, 1999 and ends August 31, 2000.

Editor Roy Hutchinson presented the Financial Report for the Maple Digest. The report was accepted subject to audit. Roy mentioned that the cost of mailing has gone up and advertisers are harder to find. Advertising supports much of the Digest's production costs. Roy asked delegates to encourage potential advertisers to consider the digest to spend a portion of their advertising dollar.

Roy was asked to comment on the "Sugarhouse in Washington" project which he was involved in. A complete article can be found in the October 1999 issue of the Digest. The project was a once in a lifetime opportunity for everyone involved. Roy told a number of interesting stories about the comments and questions people had in Washington about syrup production in New Hampshire and other places. The sugarhouse was well received and thousands of people now have a better understanding of maple syrup production.

Secretary/Treasurer Carl Vogt presented the Treasurers Report for fiscal year 1999. The report was accepted subject to audit.

Mike Girard presented the Research Fund Report for fiscal year 1999. The report was accepted subject to audit.

Richard Norman then presented the recommendations of the Research Review Committee for research projects to be funded in fiscal year 2000. The projects will be highlighted in the February issue of the Digest.

The delegates approved the projects to be funded. Richard Norman stated that funding the projects provides "seed money" and information regarding the projects should be presented to the council following completion of the project. A number of recommendations were presented to the council regarding reporting and use of funds for future research projects. It was also recommended and adopted that the committee be called the Research Committee.

A motion was made that the North American Maple Syrup Council contribute \$5,000.00 (\$4,000.00 from NAMSC Research Fund and 1,000.00 from General



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WE ACCEPT



Happy Holidays and a Prosperous Sugaring Season

Funds) to the University of Vermont — Proctor Research Center, Maple Endowment Fund in memory of Sumner Williams. The motion was passed by the council.

A report was given by the newsletter committee chaired by Joe Polak. Aubrey Davis, Director of the New England Agricultural Statistics Service gave a report on Maple production in the U.S. A brief discussion followed on techniques and questions used in the survey. Producers were encouraged to contact the Agricultural Statistics service with comments regarding the data that is reported. Angie Coate assists with the data and compiles much of the information for the maple syrup production part of the agricultural census.

After a luncheon break, the meeting resumed at 1:00 p.m. The audit committee recommended that the financial reports (NAMSC Treasures Report, Research Committee, and Maple Syrup Digest) be accepted. A motion was made and passed.

The Nominations Committee recommended the following persons to serve as officers for 2000. President Hank Peterson, New Hampshire; Vice-President Luc Lussier, Quebec; Secretary/Treasurer Carl Vogt, Minnesota. A motion was made to have the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for those nominated. Passed. There being no new business, President Bentley adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

At 3:00 p.m. Delegates and their spouses boarded busses for a short trip down to the Portland dock to travel by ferry to House Island for a real downeast "Lobster Boil." After about a 20 minute ride across the bay we arrived at House



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Island. The host then took anyone interested on a tour of the old fort which was built during the civil war. This was a fascinating experience. The fort is an architectural wonder with fine brick and masonry work. When everyone got back to the house they were treated to boiled lobster, corn, salad and dessert. The boat arrived back at Portland by 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday morning, Extension Specialists and others interested in Research and dissemination of information met to discuss projects and plans for the upcoming year. The discussion was lively and informative. The various provinces and states are implementing new ideas and strategies for the future. From maple tree selection to video tapes and learning activities for children, extension services in the United States and Canada are providing a valuable service for maple producers and the general public.

At 10:00 a.m. the International Maple Syrup Institute held its Annual Meeting. The meeting was well attended and a number of topics were reviewed at the gathering.

At 1:00 p.m. the Technical Sessions were held where a variety of topics were discussed. Dr. Tim Perkins of the Proctor Research Center reported on the Center's work with the new small diameter spout. Dr. Perkins discussed the various results using the spout in vacuum, bucket and tubing systems without vacuum. Dave Chapeskie, Provincial Agroforestry Specialist and Maple Industry Specialist from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs presented the results of two years of research and practice on alternatives for sanitation and cleaning of maple systems. Steve O'Farrell, Maple Producer and Equipment Representative for Dominion & Grimm, spoke on the importance of installing a tubing network, pumping networks and reverse slope pumping systems.

At 6:00 p.m. the social hour was held prior to the Annual Banquet. The national anthem of Canada and the United States were sung by those in attendance. After a delicious dinner and dessert, Mr. Rodney Hall, President of the Maine Maple Producers Association introduced the head table. Brief comments were made by Avarad Bentley, NAMSC and Michael Herman, IMSI. Awards for the annual photo contest were presented as follows: Sugarbush Scenes: #1 Carl Vogt, #2 Avis Norman, #3 Michael Girard. Sugarhouses: #1 Avis Norman, #2 Kurt Banford, #3 Russell Davenport. Visitors to the Sugarhouse: #1 Russell Davenport, #2 Michael Davenport, #3 Avis Norman. Maple People on the Job: #1 Russell Davenport, #2 Carl Vogt, #3 Pat Roth.

The awards for the maple syrup contest were as follows: Dark Amber: #1 Bonhomie Acres, #2 Doris Vargas, #3 Yankee Maple Products. Medium Amber: #1 Girard's Sugarhouse, #2 Gillian Family Maple, #3 Jackson Mt. Farms. Light Amber: #1 Gillian Family Maple, #2 Hall Farms, #3 Kirsten Waddell. Best of Show: Gillian Family Maple. Quite a few entries were disqualified for misjudging their grade.

Carl Vogt, Secretary/Treasurer NAMSC presented awards to Avarad Bentley for his service as President of the NAMSC and the Chester Basford (Posthumously) for his contributions to the maple industry in Maine.

Awards were also given by the IMSI for the Lynn Reynolds Memorial to Gary Gaudette, President of Leader Evaporator Co. in St. Albans. The IMSI International Maple Syrup Contest winners were Dakin Farm of Ferrisburg, VT the winner in the Specialty and Gift Shop Category and Citadelle Maple Syrup Cooperative of Plessisville, Quebec was the winner in the International Category.

Fifteen lucky attendees were given door prizes by the various commercial exhibitors. The Council would like to thank all of the exhibitors for supporting the meeting and bringing the latest equipment and supplies to the producers. Support by exhibitors is very important to the industry as we move into the future. New techniques, new equipment will help everyone produce fine quality maple products now and in the future.

The group was then treated to a video highlighting plans for the 2000 Annual meeting which will be held in Burlington, Vermont.

For entertainment, Mr. Joe Perham of South Paris Maine told a variety of "Maine Stories: which were amusing to listen to. Following Mr. Perham, incoming NAMSC President, Hank Peterson thanked the Maine Maple Producers Association for hosting the 1999 Meeting and wished everyone a safe trip home.

On Sunday morning some of the participants took the Golden Road Tour which was hosted by the Maine Association. The three day tour of northern Maine was well received and those who attended had a great time.

Till next year, thanks to the Maine Maple Producers Association and we look forward to seeing you in Vermont in 2000.

Respectfully,

Carl Vogt
Secretary

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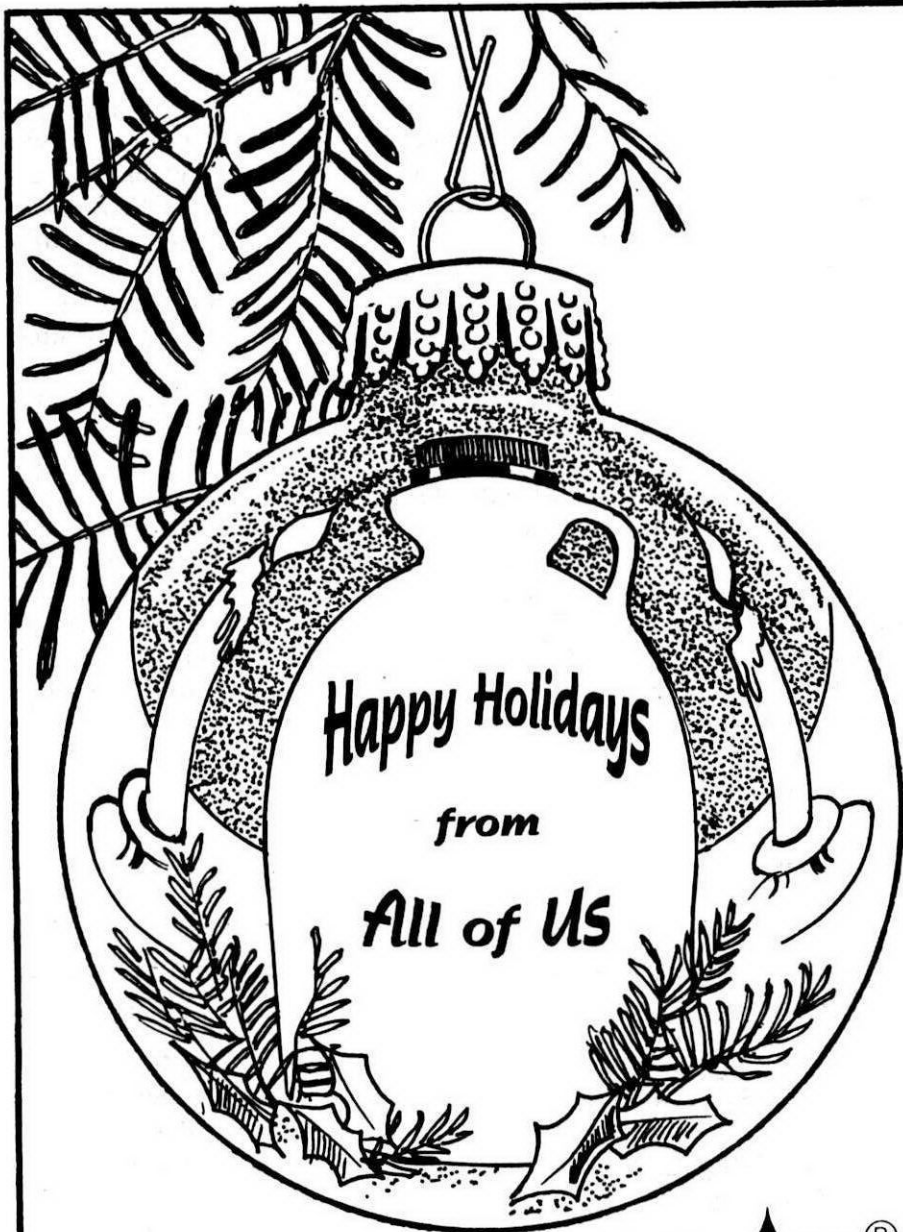
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The tour will be headquartered at Lake Placid in the Olympic Region but will visit many area maple operations in the tri-county region of Clinton, Essex, and Franklin Counties. In addition, maple operations in Clinton County affected by the infamous January 1998 Ice Storm will illustrate the impact the storm had on area sugar maples, and information will be shared on the recovery and research programs developed in response to the storm.

A portion of the tour will take place at the Uihlein Sugar Maple Field Station of Cornell University located near Lake Placid. At the research station, there will be opportunities to view several ongoing research projects, the sugar maple tree improvement greenhouse and plantations, and other projects.

Please mark the dates for this interesting and informative maple event. More information will be forthcoming. For more information you may contact: **Lewis J. Staats**, Uihlein Sugar Maple Field Station, 60 Bear Cub Road, Lake Placid, NY 12946, Phone: (518)523-

9337, Email: lj20@cornell.edu or **Beth Spaugh**, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Clinton County, 6064 Route 22, Suite 5, Plattsburgh, NY 12901, Phone: (518) 561-7450, Email: eas9@cornell.edu.

Also of interest to maple producers is the Vermont Maplerama 2000 to be held July 27 through 29 in Orleans County with headquarters at Jay Peak Resort. The dates for the New York Maple Tour and Vermont Maplerama offer an opportunity and convenience for those who would like to take in both events with one day for travel between the two.

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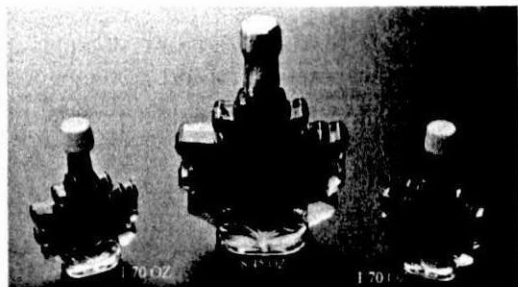
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 Mass Maple Producers, Cummington, MA
 McLure's Honey & Maple, Littleton, NH
 Mead's Maple Syrup, Canaan, CT
 Merle Farms, Attica, NY
 Mike Berliner, Lake Luzerne, NY
 Moonlight Maple, Jaffrey, NH
 Morse Maple Products, Westford, VT
 Mountain Maple, Rumford, ME
 Native Harvest, Ponsford, MN
 New England Maple Museum, Rutland, VT
 NH Maple Prod. Assoc., Canterbury, NH
 Niese's Pure Maple Syrup, Putnam Valley, NY
 Norman's Sugarhouse, Woodstock, CT
 Norris Sugarworks, Starksboro, VT
 North Country Corp., Cambridge, MA
 Northern Wisconsin Maid, Park Falls, WI
 Northfield Mt. Herman, Northfield, MA
 Oliver Scrantono, Guilford, CT
 Owens Sugar House, Colebrook, NH
 Patrick Hill Maple, Morris, NY
 Patterson Fruit Farm, Chesterland, OH
 Paul Smiths College, Paul Smiths, NY
 PDT Syrup, Bristol, RI
 Pearl & Son, Concord, NH
 Pick & Shovel, Newport, VT
 Pike County Extension, Magnolia, MS
 Potter-Tioga Maple Producers., Mainsburg, PA
 Quechee Gorge Gifts, White River Jct., VT
 Quentin L. Mead, Moscow, PA
 R.N. Johnson, Walpole, NH
 Red Bucket Sugar Shack, Worthington, MA
 Red Cupboard, W. Woodstock, VT
 Remo Pizzagalli, Charlotte, VT
 Richard's Maple Products, Chardon, OH
 Richter's Maplehouse, Pickens, WV
 Roth Sugar Bush, Cadott, WI
 Russell's Maple Farm, Rome, PA
 Schambach Maple, Inc., Sardinia, NY
 Scribner Maple, Whitehall, NY
 Shiloh Sugarbush, Ulysses, PA
 Simcoe & District Maple Syrup Prod. Assoc.,
 Hillside, Ont.
 Simscroft-Echo Farms, Simsbury, CT
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 Stonewall Farm, Keene, NH
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 Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Assoc.,
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 Vermont Syrup Works, Norwich, VT
 Wagner's Sugar House, Peshtigo, WI
 Ward's Maple Products, Smithfield Flats, NY
 Warren Allen, Castorland, NY
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WISCONSIN MAPLE SYRUP MAKERS OF THE YEAR

Joe and Barbara Polak of Maple Hollow in Merrill were awarded Syrup Makers of the Year by the Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producers Association at the Annual Tour Meeting held in Phillips on October 2, 1999. The award is given each year to a pure maple syrup producer in the state who has shown dedication to the production and promotion of quality Pure Wisconsin Maple Syrup.

Joe has held offices in the Wisconsin Maple Producers organization including President, Vice President, Newsletter Editor, and Delegate to the National Convention. He currently holds the office of Delegate to the IMSI. He is a member of the Agfi-Business Committee of the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce and is the Chairman of the Wisconsin Maple Festival Committee. The Maple Festival is held in Merrill every September.

Barbara is a member of the WMSPA Cookbook Committee and has helped to edit two Maple Syrup cookbooks for the organization. She has recently written a cookbook of her own, *Maple Hollow Heritage Recipes*.

Maple Hollow/Waterloo USA Inc. is a 100 year old maple operation of 3000 taps in Merrill, WI. Following the tradition of his father and grandfather, Joe makes maple syrup every spring. He has added the sale of maple syrup making equipment to the tradition, making the sales of syrup and equipment a full-time business. Maple Hollow/Waterloo USA Inc. is located NE of Merrill off of Hwy C, W1887 Robinson Drive.

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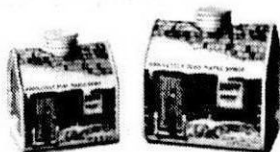
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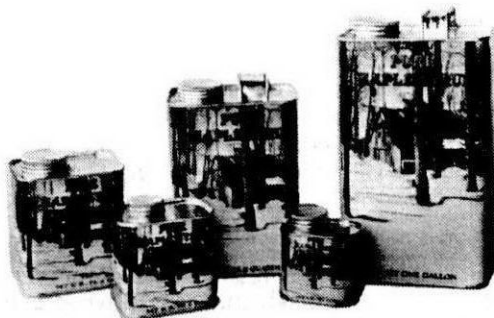
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2000 MAPLE PRODUCTION SCHOOL
SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2000
 HOSTED BY
CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
CORNELL DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CORNELL MEDIA SERVICES
NEW YORK STATE MAPLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

The 2000 Maple Production School will be broadcast via satellite from Cornell University on Saturday, **January 22, 2000**. The program will begin at 9:30 AM and will end at 1:00 PM (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 7, 2000 and \$150 after January 7, 2000 (registration deadline is January 14, 2000).

The program will be valuable for improving production efficiency and increasing profits for both large and small maple producers. The tentative agenda is as follows:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 9:30 a.m. | Introduction and announcements by Nancy Fey and Lewis Staats. |
| 9:35 | Eric Randall, President of the New York Maple Producers Assoc. |
| 9:40 | Results of the Cornell "Maple Team" sugar maple outplanting trials by Marianne E. Krasny, Director of the Cornell Maple Program. |
| 9:50 | Pennsylvania maple syrup Extension: Leaning to best serve the industry by Michael Demchik, Pennsylvania State University maple syrup and non-timber forest products Extension Assistant. |
| 10:15 | Educational needs of northern New York maple producers (as a result of the January 1998 ice storm) by Nancy A. Connelly, Research Support Specialist, Human Dimensions Research Unit, Dept. of Natural Resources, Cornell University. |
| 10:45 | WANTED: THE ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE , a video tape presentation produced by the USDA with comments by Lewis J. Staats, Dept. of Natural Resources, Cornell University. |
| 11:00 | Program break |
| 11:10 | Growing ginseng in your sugar bush: A dual income opportunity by Robert Beyfuss, Cornell Cooperative Extension Educator. |
| 11:40 | Maple orchards in Ontario; programs and progress by Dave Chapeskie, Province of Ontario, Canada. |

- 12:05 p.m. **Tubing collection systems with vacuum transfer, small diameter spile research, and preview of the 2000 NY Maple Tour by Lewis Staats.**
- 12:25 **Questions and answers.**
- 1:00 **End of broadcast. Local sites may provide lunch or live programming after the broadcast.**

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

Deanna Owens (607) 255-2814 or Lewis J. Staats (518) 523-9337

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

Glen Palmer (607) 255-8162

COMING EVENTS

CATSKILL NY ASSOCIATION MAPLE PRODUCERS CONFERENCE

January 15th, 2000 — 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

B.O.C.E.S. Rt. 206, between Trout Creek & Masonville

For more information contact:

Tom Kaufman 607-746-6215

HEBRON'S 10TH ANNUAL MAPLE FESTIVAL

Saturday and Sunday, March 11th & 12th, 2000

For more information contact:

Barbara or Selden Wells 860-228-9503

WARKWORTH MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

March 11th & 12th, 2000

Warkworth, Ontario

For more information contact:

Alice Potter, PO Box 1, Warkworth, Ont. Canada K0K 3K0
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July 23-25, 2000

For more information contact:

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FOR SALE: 4' x 12' Small Brothers evaporator, oil-fired, SS hoods and pans, preheat unit, evaporators 200 GPH, \$6900. Complete accessories available. 2000 gallon SS tank, \$1,000. PA 724-927-2377.

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IN MEMORY OF SUMNER WILLIAMS

By Bill Clark

Not every day ends as you thought it might when you start out in the morning. It didn't for Sumner Williams on October 11. It didn't for the Maple Industry either.

Sumner Williams, assistant director of the Proctor Maple Center, researcher, sugarmaker, extensionist, environmentalists, was tragically killed while bush hogging at the Proctor Center. Sumner, a kind and gentle person was not one to take undo chances. Everyone is at a loss to know why this should have happened.

Sumner had dedicated his life to the maple industry. He loved working in and with the maples. He carried on the ideas and dreams of Dr. Jim Marvin and Fred Laing. He spent hours working on various research, testing it out, making sure it worked. Then making sure the results got directly to maple producers in terms that they could understand.

We don't know right now who will carry on Sumners's work. His passing is like taking the "hub" out of the wheel. One thing Sumner would want us to do is carry on. He would want to know what he was so involved with continues.

We pause in a moment of silence to acknowledge this great steward of the maples. Our hearts go out to his family. Memorials are being established in his memory. In our hearts we know he will always be walking amongst the maples, stop a moment and listen. God Bless you, Sumner.



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IN MEMORIAM

DR. CHARLES O. WILLITS

Dr. Charles O. Willits was born in 1901 in South Dakota. He received a B.S. degree in chemistry from Huron College in South Dakota. He received both his M.S. degrees and his Ph.D. degree in analytical chemistry from Cornell University. After graduating, Dr. Willits taught chemistry at Westminster College in Salk Lake City, Utah for three years.

In the late 1930's Dr. Willits went to Geneva as an employee of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station. He was sent to Geneva to research a problem with maple syrup. The problem was that the maple syrup was contaminated with lead. Dr. Willits discovered that the farmers used lead paint to protect their wood and metal sap collection buckets. Fermentation in the sap absorbs the lead and the syrup became contaminated.

In 1940, Dr. Willits went to work for the US Department of Agriculture. He was one of the first Chemists to work in the USDA's Eastern Laboratory in Philadelphia. He worked in the Laboratory's analytical section. He studied micro chemical methods. He became an active member to the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists. He was the President of the AOAC in 1960 and 1961.

After World War II Dr. Willits was asked to head maple syrup research with the USDA in the Eastern Regional Research Lab in Philadelphia. Initially, Dr. Willits didn't know if he wanted to do this because he was interested in all types of analytical research and didn't want to concentrate only on maple syrup. However, the maple syrup industry had declined so much that the Northeastern United States was suffering financially. Dr. Willits accepted the assignment and spent the next 30 years becoming the world's leading authority on maple sap and syrup.

Dr. Willits had many achievements in the maple syrup industry. The most important was the development of plastic tubing to take the place of open sap buckets. This protects the sap from microbial growth and thereby the syrup is cleaner and tastes better. He also discovered that a tree's tap hole filled up with micro-organisms causing the hole to clog up. Farmers believed their trees had dried up but Dr. Willits invented pellets to prevent the growth of micro-organisms and the tree's sap began to flow again. Dr. Willits is also credited with the centralized evaporation concept. This means that the farmers collect the sap but instead of processing it themselves, they send it to a central plant that has the equipment to produce good quality, clean maple syrup at a reasonable cost.

Dr. Willits received two USDA Superior Service Awards. He wrote over 150 publications on the maple syrup industry. He held 7 patents and had published the world's most complete handbook on the maple syrup production. In 1969, Dr. Willits retired. He resided in the Medford Leas Nursing Home until his death on July 23, 1999.

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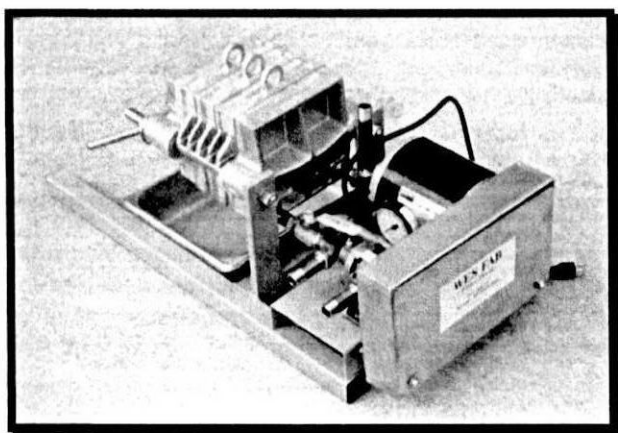
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