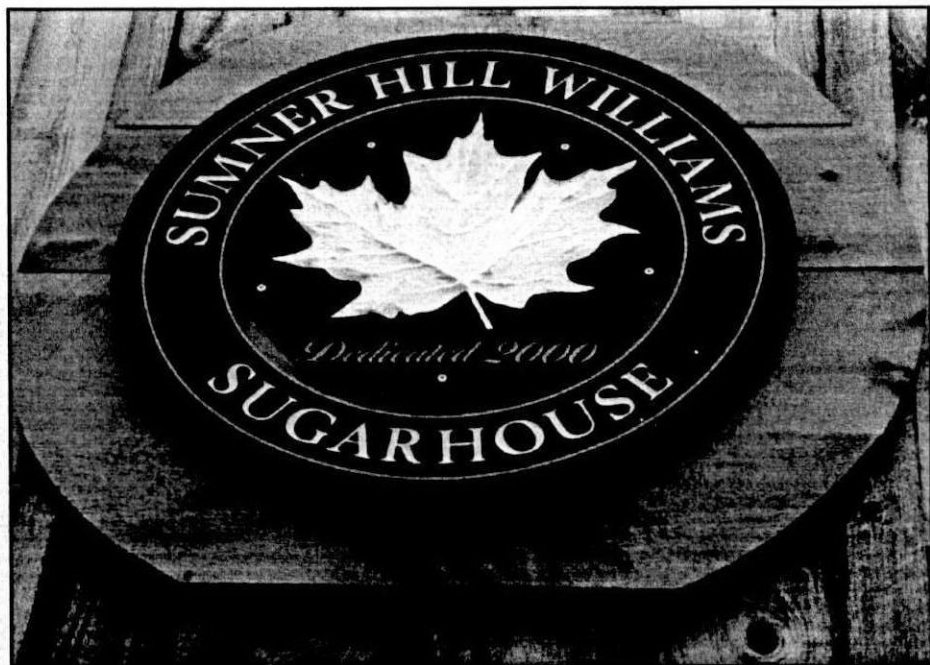


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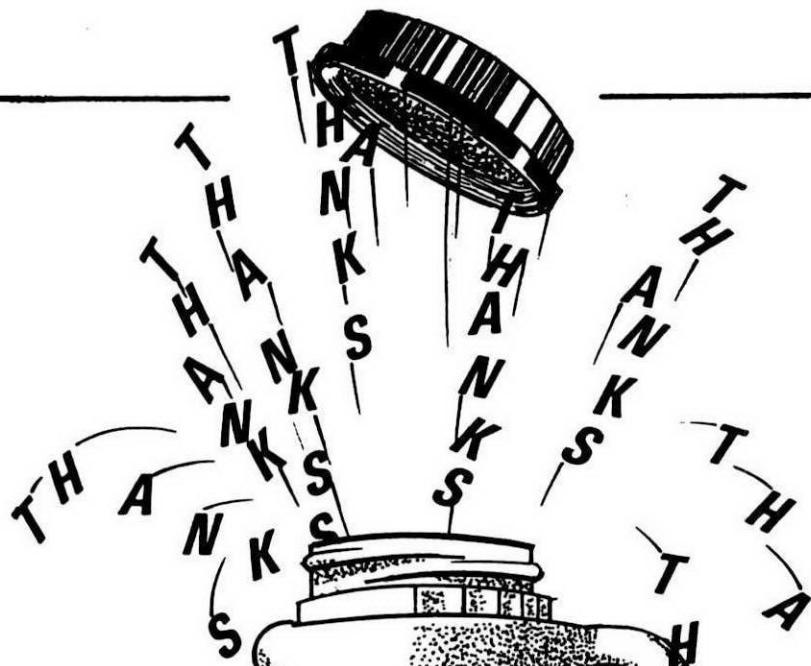
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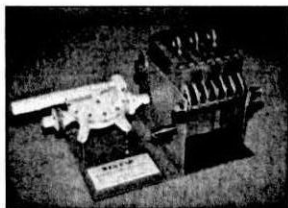
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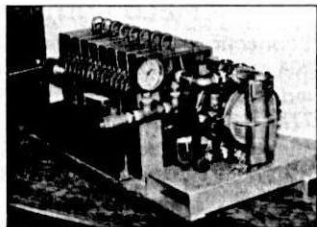
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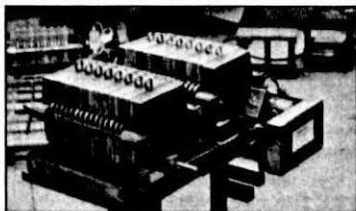
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GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



The 41st annual meeting of the NAMSC is now history. It was the largest turn-out ever. The Maple 2000 committee is to be commended for the outstanding job they did in putting on a great meeting. To the dozens of people that made this meeting a success, a great big thank you. From the chairmen to the tour guides on the busses you all did Vermont proud. It was nice to see so many of our friends from Canada in attendance. The exchange of information can only help our maple industry. The weather could not have been more perfect, who ever thought that we could be out on Lake Champlain on a dinner cruise in late October in calm waters and warm temperatures. The drive home on Sunday was another story, snow!

Not to be forgotten were all of the exhibitors that set up their displays and showed us a lot of new items that are on the market. We all hope to sell lots of maple products so we can afford to update our equipment. Thank you to the exhibitors, you played a large part in making the meeting a success.

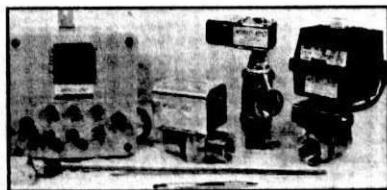
During the two days of business and technical reports a lot of subjects were covered. Carl Vogt, Secretary, will cover the meetings in more detail in his report in the Maple Digest. A committee was set up to take a look at where the NAMSC is today and where

we are going into the future. They are to report back to the Council at the meeting next year in Minnesota. A discussion was held on the Research Fund and how we can get more money into the Fund to do research. The research is funded by the penny per container we all pay when we buy containers. The main objective of the NAMSC is research and education of pure maple. The main objective of the IMSI is promotion and marketing of pure maple.

Again I want to thank the Maple 2000 committee and Vermont for hosting this years meeting.

Thank You,

Hank Peterson, President
North American Maple Syrup Council



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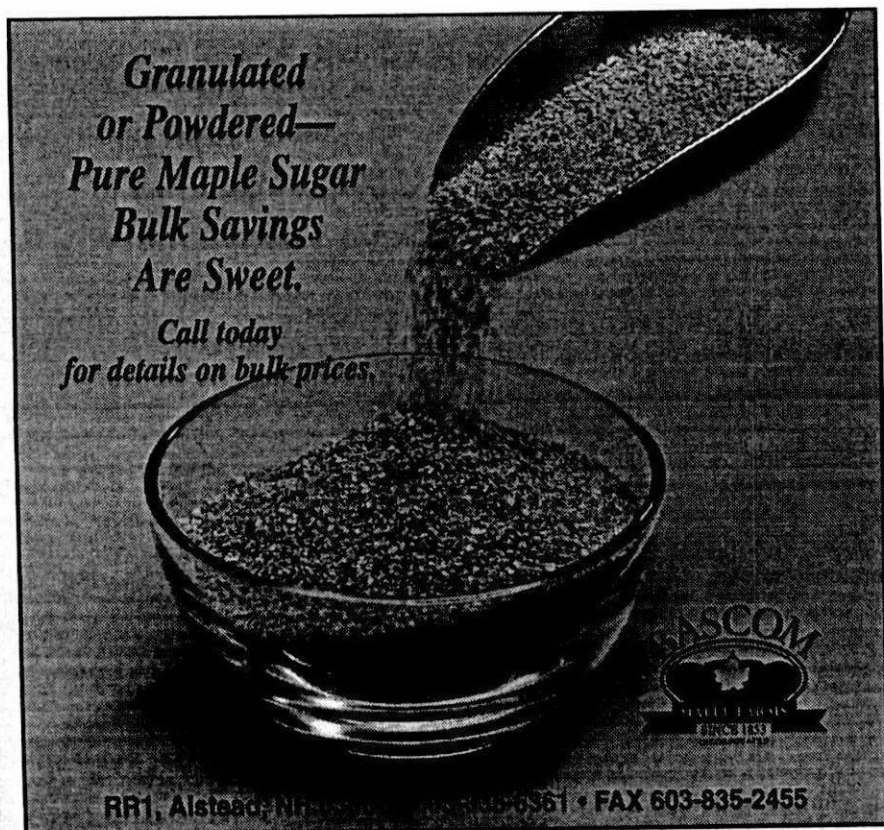
NEWS FROM THE IMSI

Another annual meeting is in the past and one that, I'm sure will be remembered for a very long time. The largest joint international session ever held is the word that I got after more than 500 maple people participated at the Burlington, Vermont sessions. The Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center was full of maple people, "the nicest folks we've ever had here." Seventeen states were represented with the largest delegations coming from Quebec and Vermont.

The I.M.S.I., at it's annual business meeting, heard reports from officers

and activities in the previous year. Reports were made on the adulteration testing program, implemented two years ago. Many sample from all around the world have been tested for adulteration and only one has come back as positive for adulteration. At the annual meeting the members asked the Executive Secretary to double the amount of testing and seek out samples from even more areas. Work is taking place to take appropriate action on the one positive test that has been received from Asia.

Discussions were held on the continuing illegal use of the para-formaldehyde pill in some areas of the maple world. The IMSI is making a special



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effort to eliminate the use of the pill from every maple sugarbush. Meetings were held with Canadian government officials at the Burlington session. Those discussions are expected to bring to light the problem and methods of eliminating such use in the future. Producers using the pill are subject to prosecution and prison for the use of this illegal pesticide in the sugarbush.

Jerry Kless of Citadelle, Jake Couture of Vermont, Mary Fogle Douglass of Michigan and Haven King of Maple Grove Farms of Vermont were a very proud committee to unveil a new marketing poster for the IMSI. This full color poster was presented to the meeting and given to members in attendance for use in market development. The poster is available from the Executive Secretary for members use around the world. It is available in both English and French, from Citadelle Cooperative in Plessisville, QC, Waterloo/Small in Waterloo, QC and the Executive Secretaries office in Burlington, Vermont.

New officers elected for the year 2001 are: Mary Fogle Douglass of Michigan is President, Vice President is Bernard Perreault of Waterloo/Small in Quebec, Larry Myott of the University of Vermont is Executive Secretary, and Michael Herman of Turkey Hill Sugarbush in Quebec is

Past President. A bill for 2000 dues will be mailed before the end of November along with a response form to get a current list of delegates for the IMSI. Non-members who wish to join the IMSI should contact the Executive Secretary or any officer.

The third international maple syrup contest for wholesalers and retailers that pack maple syrup was held at this joint session with contest chair Jake Couture of Vermont announcing the winners at the annual banquet. Citadelle Maple Producers Co-operative of Plessisville, Quebec won the International Category for the third year in a row. In the Gift Shop and Specialty category, Vermont Maple Outlet of Jeffersonville, Vermont took home the honors. Congratulations to the winners!

Getting in touch with the IMSI officers is easy. Mary Fogle Douglass is available in Okemos, Michigan, her telephone number is (517) 349-5185, email: sbfarms@concentric.net. Bernard Perreault is available in Waterloo, QC at (450) 539-3663, email: echo@waterloo-small.com. Larry Myott is available at (802)-656-5433, email: Larry.Myott@uvm.edu.

Larry Myott
Executive Secretary, IMSI

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MICHIGAN NEWS

By Cathi Bates

Every fall the Michigan Maple Syrup Association has a sugar bush tour, we go out to some pre-selected sites and see what ideas other producers have that we can use in our own operations. Below is a light look at the 2000 Fall Tour.

For a few years we have been having the most perfect weather for the fall tour, this year was not quite so great. Although not a "wash-out", we did get wet a couple of times. Maple producers are a hardy bunch and didn't let a little rain dampen the tour. There were five stops on the route and we enjoyed each one of them.

At Rick's Sugar Bush & Supply we found a wonderful supply of coffee and donuts! We took the time to get re-acquainted with each other and then to look over Rick's sugar bush. It is so nice to get the chance to see how other producers are set up and getting new ideas for our own operation.

Further down the road, at Gerald & Katherine Nelson's we found "weeping" walnut trees, a prancing horse, and a tractor chained to the sugar house. The walnuts were falling like leaves and the tractor wasn't very big, about a 1/32 scale. The Nelson's have begun a young maple stand in an overgrown pasture. We will have to go there on tour in a few more years to see how the stand is progressing.

The youngsters had an especially good time at Craig & Sandy Arnold's Sugar Bush. We had been doused with plenty of rain in the early hours of the morning and some mighty fine puddles were taking up the driveway

to the sugar house. A couple of the boys had apples on sticks that they were stirring the puddles with. Looked like a lot of fun!

At the Potter Farm, owned by Steve and Sue Whitman, I thought perhaps we were in the Vermont area. What a hill we got to go down and then go up again! Their sugarhouse was a quaint, picturesque old thing.

Our final stop on this tour was Nelson's Sugar Bush owned by Robert and Darlene Nelson. They also have a sawmill and kiln at the farm. We enjoyed a very co-ordinated demonstration of the family running the sawmill and then checked out the wood shop and kiln. A very fine operation is run of this farm with everything being used for something. Michigan Maple Syrup Association can be found at www.mimapplesyrup.com. Stop by our web site and get to know us.

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MAPLE IS MORE THAN SYRUP

The Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association, with financial assistance from the NAMSC Research Fund and the Agricultural Adaptation Council, has completed a handbook for great maple plus products from on-farm kitchens. MAPLE PLUS helps producers get started in the production of maple value added products. In the handbook, producers are given considerable "food for thought" before they ever begin making maple candy, jelly or maple butter, etc.

Insurance, health regulations, marketing, pricing, maple kitchens, allergies, quality assurance, recipes, helpful hints, and ideas for other products using maple are addressed in the MAPLE PLUS handbook. In the 63 page handbook there are at least 50 recommended web sites for you to explore to enhance your maple business.

Many farm operators are looking for alternative ways to increase income.

Adding value to the raw farm product is a method by which you can increase returns. This can happen through on-farm processing. The intent of on-farm processing is to increase returns of the primary product. Each venture needs to be carefully planned to ensure that it will produce a profit.

The MAPLE PLUS handbook will help you get started. Most producers of maple value added products say that "practice makes perfect." Be prepared to experiment! Be prepared for challenges! Be prepared for fun! Your planning and practice will give you the recipe to a successful new business. You will find the tools to help you succeed in the handbook.

MAPLE PLUS may be purchased from OMSPA's Promotion Store, c/o Connie Danielsen, RR #2, Millbrook, ON L0A 1G0. Orders paid by VISA can be placed by phone or fax 705-932-2653 or e-mail: kennedys@nexi.com.net. The cost is \$12 CAN + postage and handling or \$12 US which includes postage and handling.



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MAPLE PRODUCERS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN VERONA, NY

As maple trees stand dormant throughout the winter months, many of the state's maple syrup producers will be busily planning for the upcoming sugaring season by attending the 6th annual New York Maple Producers Conference. Hosted for the second year in a row by the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill (V.V.S.) FFA, in conjunction with the Central New York Maple Producers Association, the conference will be held at the V.V.S. High School on Saturday, January 6th, 2001.

This year's conference will focus on three major areas of the maple syrup enterprise — Production, Marketing, and Advanced Technologies and Research. Workshops in each of the three areas will concentrate on topics to improve sugaring techniques, enhance maple marketing strategies, and explore emerging technologies in the maple industry. From novice sappers to commercial operators, participants will be exposed to updated maple processing techniques, new methods of marketing, and advanced equipment to improve their maple sugaring operations.

More than 20 presenters from across New York and New England will be on hand to deliver some 25 informational presentations. Presenters include maple syrup and maple product producers, equipment and supply dealers, manufacturers of specialty maple equipment, and state maple industry researchers and consultants. Participants will be able to select up to 6 of the 25 different workshops conducted throughout the day.

Several workshops address issues related to maple production in the sugarbush or sap house. These workshops provide information to enhance syrup production and include: *Tubing and Sap Extractors*, *The Economics of Tubing and Vacuum Systems*, *Controls in the Sugar House*, *Computerize Cost Analysis of Evaporator Efficiencies*, *Syrup Bottling Demonstration*, *Syrup Filter Press Demonstration*, *State Regulations for Food Processing Establishments*, *Grading, Classification, and Labeling of Maple Products*, *Business Financial Practices for Small Producer Operations*, and *State Maple Producer's Association Member Benefits*.

Workshops with focus on marketing of maple syrup include: *Baking with Maple*, *Cooking with Maple*, *Making Maple Sugar*, *Making Maple Cream*, *Designing Custom Labels for Maple Syrup Containers*, *Developing a Maple Business Market*, *Packaging with Glass*, *Maple Meets the Internet*, *Maple Promotion: It's All Elementary*, and *Maple Promotion Update: Maple Sunday and NYS DOT Signs*. Each of these workshops will address various marketing strategies including packaging, processing, promotion, and/or retailing of maple products. Many of these workshops will include live demonstrations and hands-on activities for participants.

At the Advanced Technologies and Research workshops, attendees will hear the latest developments in research and emerging technologies being studied or implemented in the maple industry. Workshops include: *Sugar Maple Tree Improvement Program*, *Small Diameter Spout Research Update*, *Developments in*

Sap and Syrup Filtration, Ozone Update, Stop the Decline of Maples — One Producer's Perspective, and Operating Techniques and Economic Efficiencies of Reverse Osmosis and SteamAway Equipment.

Some of this year's workshops will concentrate on the cost of production as it relates to the producer's source and cost of fuel. The highest operating cost of most maple sugaring businesses is usually the fuel used to evaporate the sap. With the high cost of heating oil, many producers will be interested in "hot" topics relating to alternative fuels or methods of improving evaporation, such as reverse osmosis, preheaters, or SteamAway and Piggyback units.

As another conference activity, members of the V.V.S. FFA will be conducting tours of the V.V.S. Agriculture Department's Maple Syrup Laboratory and Maple Market Facility. Included in the Syrup Laboratory are a sap filtration system, sap preheater, "Piggyback" heat exchanger, reverse osmosis machine, and set-up a 1,000 Tap Operation. The Maple Market facility comprises a 510 square foot retail outlet for maple and maple products which is managed and operated by students in the school's agriculture program.

Maple syrup equipment dealers and manufacturers will also be on hand displaying the latest in maple sugaring equipment and supplies. An extended luncheon featuring the maple exhibitors will provide an opportunity for company representatives to highlight their maple business and product line.

The maple industry is a vital part of New York's agriculture economy. New York ranks second nationally and annually produces more than 2 million pounds of maple products valued at

more than 5 million dollars. The Conference is designed to assist the state's 500 registered maple producers and numerous maple hobbyists. Last year, more than 270 people attended the Maple Conference.

Registration will open at 8:00 a.m. with the conference program beginning at 8:45 a.m. and concluding at approximately 4:30 p.m. The conference is open to the general public, as well as any maple producer, and is geared toward all levels of sugarmakers. The cost of the conference registration is \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 for students and \$5.00 for FFA members. A home-style luncheon, sponsored by the V.V.S. FFA Booster Club, is available during the Conference for an additional \$7.00. A special meal and conference package including registration and luncheon is \$15.

The V.V.S. High School is located between Utica and Syracuse on State Route 31. From State Route 5 in Vernon, take State Route 31 West. From Oneida or Rome, take State Route 365 to State Route 31 East. Just two minutes from NYS Thruway Exit 33, the ideal central location of the school is easily accessible from all parts of the state and is sure to draw participants from the across the state and New England. For more information contact V.V.S. FFA Advisor Keith Schiebel at school at (315) 829-2520, fax (315) 829-4949 or email: kschiebel@vvs-csd-high.moric.org

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What is the research fund and how does it work . . .

- It is a non-profit, volunteer managed fund established by the directors of the North American Maple Syrup Council at the annual conference in 1987.
- The program was developed to generate seed money for universities and institutions that perform research benefiting the entire maple industry.
- A voluntary contribution of a "penny per container" was determined to be a reasonable amount, from a common source, that is affordable to all producers and packers. With industry wide participation these contributions would provide the necessary ongoing financial support needed for maple research.
- Annually the NAMSC-RF solicits, reviews and selects research proposals that are of primary importance and concern to the Maple Industry.
- Funds are designated and distributed to qualified institutions in the U.S. and Canada for select research projects.
- Progress reports and research findings are presented at the joint annual meetings of the North American Maple Syrup Council and the International Maple Syrup Institute.
- The results of their research efforts are also published regularly in the *Maple Syrup Digest* and other maple industry publications.

Who participates and how they can help . . .

- Container manufacturers and distributors assist us by requesting voluntary donations of a "penny per container" on their customer invoices. Once collected, donations are sent to the treasurer of the NAMSC — Research Fund on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis.
- There are over two hundred (200) participants who contribute \$10.00 to \$10,000.00 or more annually.
- Periodic contributions are also accepted from syrup packers, syrup producers, associations and co-ops and others who wish to donate direct to the fund rather than through their container manufacturer or distributor.
- Recognition of contributors is done on an annual basis with a letter of thanks and listing in the December issue of the *Maple Syrup Digest*.

What we have accomplished and what can we do . . .

- Since its inception the fund has generated and provided thousands of dollars annually to help fund accurate and timely maple research benefiting all producers, large and small, in the United States and Canada.

- Future research can be done in areas such as tree health, insect infestation, syrup production and packaging methods, marketing, syrup adulteration and a host of other concerns vital to the future of maple.

- For example: a "Penny per container" for a producer who annually fill 15,000 containers would contribute \$150.00 to the fund. If everyone participated using these guidelines the individual burden to fund research would be minimal, and the benefit to the industry significant.

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

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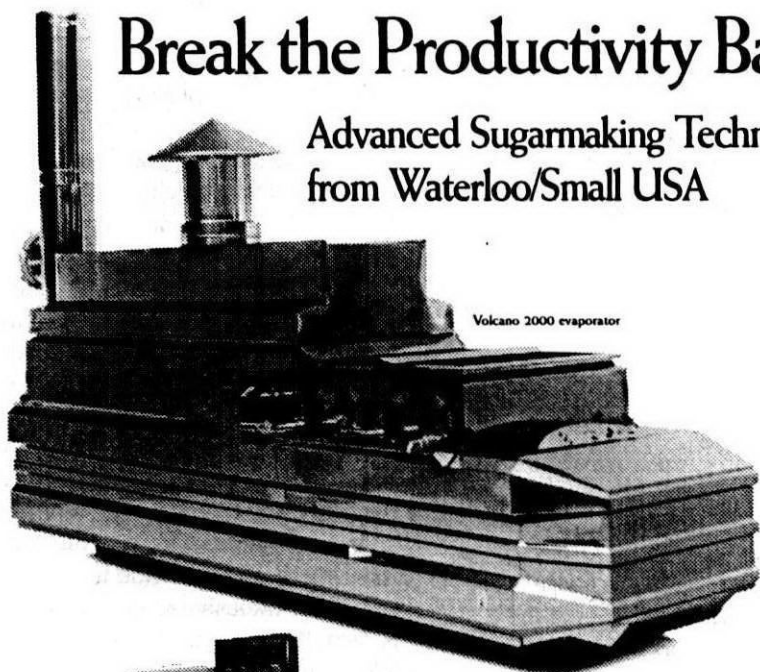
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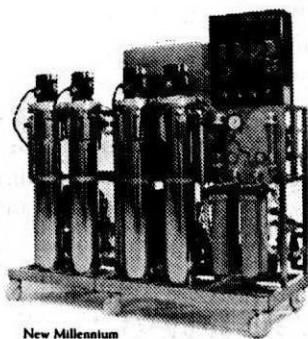
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MAINE MAPLING

By Dawn Bolduc

Here's the scoop on our "Big E" experience. The opportunity to participate in the Eastern States Exposition created a frenzy of compiling exhibit material and maple products, to say nothing of manpower. The "Big E" is a busier enterprise than we see anywhere in Maine. The average gate Monday through Thursday is 50,000, Friday through Sunday averages 125,000. State of Maine Day this year topped out at 149,500, an all time record. We were fortunate to have the experienced help of Eric Ellis (Maine Maple Products), Donna Tracy (Maple Hill Farm) who shared part of her week as a 4-H housemother, Marc Bryant and his brother and his wife (Hilltop Boilers), our group president, Bob Moore was there to help pack up, and Al Bolduc (Sugarloaf Maple Works) survived the entire stint. I am pleased to say, it was financially enticing enough for us to look forward to another season, assuming the Dept. of Ag. agrees. We venture a first for our group — the fair committee purchased syrup and candies from members that could supply, and then they were bottled and labeled with Maine Maple Producers Association labels, and packed off to the fair.

Now we are HERE, THERE and EVERYWHERE — for all to see. Visit us on the Internet at www.MaineMapleProducers.Com. Our webmaster has set those that wish, with direct link to their own Home Page. Several are on and others are working on theirs. This is open to all of the MMPA members.

Our tiny booth (it seems that way because it is always so busy) at the Fryeburg Fair offers a number of mem-

bers a one day opportunity to win friends and market their own maple products. This year's participants played to record crowds. As this goes to mail this morning, our Maple Extension Specialist, Kathy Hopkins is heading up our first Maine maple tour. It's an all day — hands on program on thinning, evaluating and tubing, with plenty of tools and a hearty lunch.

U.S.A.'s number one maple syrup producing county Somerset, is taking the first steps to organize The Somerset Sugarmakers' Association, uniting the large bushes along our Canadian border with producers of all sizes throughout the county, to share innovations from production to marketing. Hopefully other counties will see the value in more regional interests and easier meeting arrangements. The consummate result - a stronger statewide association with a more inclusive representation.

A "small committee" has been networking in the tourism industry — and finds them receptive to fresh ideas for leisure time. The presentation at Burlington was enjoyed by about a dozen Mainers — and absolutely hoards of others. A splendid program — well done.

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Report on the Season 1999 Tests
in the
College D'Alfred Maple Bush

*By Pierre-Alain Blais, M.Sc.
and Claude Weil, P.Eng.*

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RESULTS FOR THE SEASON 1999

Weather played a major role in Spring 1999 maple flows. Sap flows were interrupted several times and were often slow from March 15 to April 13, 1999. Because of this slow flow combined with high daytime temperatures, the sap heated rapidly in the black PVC collector tubes. Only about a third of the nights had freezing temperatures during the last two weeks of the maple season, and two thirds of the maximum temperature were above 10 degrees Centigrade. The 1999 Season demonstrated the great impact of the weather patterns on the microbial loads of maple sap collected through plastic tubing systems.

- Microbial loads of the sap was high in all lines during the season. About half of the 91 sap samples collected contained more than 10 million bacteria per millilitre (mL). The microbial contamination was continuously high because of sluggish sap flows and high daytime temperatures that heated the sap and promoted microbial growth.

- Despite high microbial loads, the four sanitation methods applied during the season had a distinct effect in

reducing the microbial contamination of the maple sap. Although substantial, reductions of contamination levels were not as high as expected (i.e. 99.999% wipe-out), ranging from 53% to 98%.

- The four sanitation methods tested in 1999 are the air-water pressure wash, chlorine at 500 ppm¹, hydrogen peroxide at 1,000 ppm and a strong acid (Tub-O-Net®) at 4,000 ppm. These methods gave comparable results. Contrary to 1998, the air-water pressure wash with no chemicals added showed sanitation efficiency similar to the chemical products, probably because of the use of a dedicated washing system equipped with filters to insure the purity of the compressed air.

- Although the treatments applied during the season have a lasting effect of several days, they did not reduce the contamination loads to ideal low levels, i.e. below the 1,000 microbes per mL, ideal to produce the clearer syrups. However, good maple syrup without taste defaults can be produced with sap containing microbial loads as high as 10,000.000 per mL.

- A taphole closure survey was done in August on the four experimental lines. The tapholes in the air-water wash line appear to close slower than the tapholes in the three other lines treated with chemical sanitizers. It is speculated that the low concentration sanitizers helped sterilize the taphole wound and promote faster healing.

¹ppm: parts per million (10⁻⁶).

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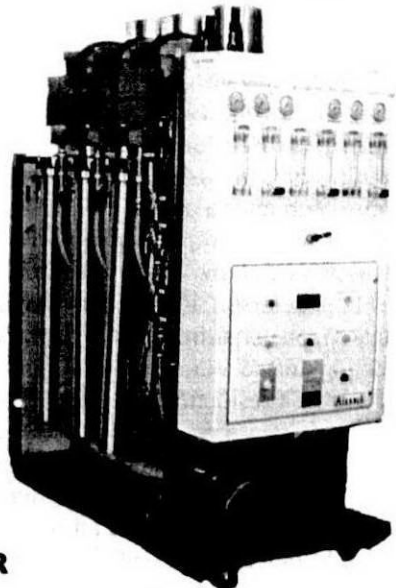
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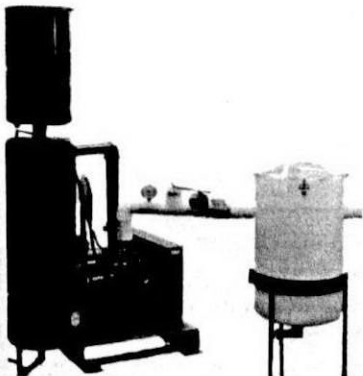
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2000 NORTH AMERICAN MAPLE SYRUP COUNCIL 41ST ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION OCTOBER 25-28, 2000 Burlington, Vermont

The 41st Annual Meeting of the North American Maple Syrup Council (NAMSC) was hosted by the Vermont Maple Sugarmakers Association and was held at the Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center in Burlington, Vermont.

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.

Following a complete breakfast buffet the IMSI Directors held their meeting and a variety of Companion tours began. The NAMSC meeting opened with a welcome by Hank Peterson, President of the Council. Bill Clark, President of the VTMSA and Larry Myott, Chairman of the Vermont 2000 committee welcomed everyone to the meeting and to Vermont.

NAMSC President Hank Peterson 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.

The Minutes of the 1999 meeting held in Portland, Maine were presented by Secretary Carl Vogt and approved as presented to the Delegates. President Peterson then made the following appointments: Auditing Committee — Luc Lussier, Ron Shaw and Burton Kimball, Nominations Committee — Avard Bentley, Roger Sage and Richard Norman.

President Hank Peterson 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 2000 maple season ranged from very good to poor with most areas between average and below average production even though most areas reported more taps.

Warm weather seemed to be a problem in many areas with intermediate runs. Darker syrup was produced in areas that had short but warm seasons. Many of the delegates reported that syrup sales were good and price has held steady. It appears that there is adequate syrup supply and that increased marketing efforts are being initiated by many organizations in the industry. Following the ice storm in the northeast two years ago, syrup production is on the rebound in those regions.

The Treasurers Report was approved pending an Audit Committee recommendation. Mike Girard presented the Maple Research Fund Report which was approved pending an Audit Committee recommendation. Mike noted that funds for research were down for 2000 and asked that packers and producers support the program by donating \$.01 per container sold. The Research Fund provides seed

money to universities and institutions in Canada and the United States that perform research benefitting the entire maple industry.

Roy Hutchinson, Editor of the Maple Digest presented a brief report on the digest. He noted that advertising was down slightly and encouraged delegates and producers to support the Digest. Mailing costs have increased slightly and printing costs have also increased. The Digest is sent to thousands of producers in Canada and the United States. The Maple Digest report was approved subject to audit.

The meeting was adjourned by President Peterson until Saturday, October 28th.

Various committees met on Thursday afternoon to conduct their work. Maple specialist's from the United States and Canada met to discuss their projects and how they might be of assistance to the maple industry. The International Maple Syrup Institute (IMSI) held its annual meeting and general session in the afternoon.

Following a busy day, attendees had a dinner cruise on Lake Champlain aboard the "Spirit of Ethan Allen." The lake was placid and the dinner buffet wonderful. Some highlights of history, geography and color of Vermont were presented on the PA system. Two cruises were held to accommodate the large crowd. After arriving on shore, busses took everyone back to the conference center.

Friday morning started early for the Sugarmakers Industry Tours. Six tours were scheduled with many different stops. The weather cooperated and those who took part enjoyed the variety and scope of the maple industry in Vermont. Excellent tour guides from the Vermont Maple Sugarmakers Association helped answer questions

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on the busses for participants. At the various stops tour hosts did a great job telling visitors about their individual operations. The tours, scenery, educational program, lunch/refreshments and sharing of ideas were outstanding.

On return to the conference center, everyone was treated to one of the largest trade shows for maple ever held at the council meeting. Twenty-seven exhibitors displayed their products and services, representing the maple industry in Canada and the United States. There was something for everyone. The Taste of Vermont was held in the trade show area. Mary Jo Gillilan entertained the group with her fine singing and guitar music with songs both old and new.

Saturday morning started with a buffet breakfast, companion tours, the trade show and continuation of the NAMSC General Session. President Peterson introduced Russ Davenport who gave a report about the American Maple Museum located in Croghan, NY. Inductees into the Hall of Fame for this year were: Gary Gaudette, Richard Haus, and Warren Wells. The museum has earned a reputation for documenting the maple syrup industry. A wonderful display of artifacts from the museum were on display at the 2000 meeting. Continued support of the museum is important and Russ thanked everyone who has volunteered and helped the museum grow.

President Peterson asked Richard Norman to present the recommendations of the Research Review Committee for research projects to be funded in fiscal year 2001.

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**2000 RESEARCH PROJECTS APPROVED
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Project	Total Funds Approved
Determination of the Correlative Relationship between Sugar Bush Soil Acidity and Sap Sugar Contents — Penn State University	\$2,000.00
Cold Storage for Overwintering of Sugar Maple Plant Material Cornell University, New York	\$3,000.00
The Effects of Ice Storm Damage on Maple Sap Production Cornell University, New York	\$2,000.00
Seasonal Changes in Starch and Soluble Sugar of Sugar Maples with High Sap Sugar Concentration ("Sweet Trees") and Standard Sugar Maples in Northern Vermont — USDA Forest Service, VT	\$3,500.00
Quantifying the Difference in Sap Yield in New vs. Used 5/16" Tubing — Proctor Research Center, VT	\$1,000.00
Effects of Ferns on Sugar Maple Seedlings Survivorship Proctor Research Center, VT	\$2,000.00
Tubing Analysis and Sugar Bush Inventory System Phase 2 Ontario Ministry of Agriculture	\$2,500.00
Design, Installation and Maintenance of Tubing Systems- Proposed Manual — Ontario Ministry of Agriculture	\$2,000.00
Sanitation and Cleaning of Tubing-Laboratory Analysis Ontario Ministry of Agriculture	\$2,000.00
Use of Steam in the Production of Maple Products-Boiler Selection — Ontario Ministry of Agriculture	\$1,500.00
Use of Steam in the Production of Maple Products — Review and Synthesis of Research Information — Ontario Ministry of Agriculture	\$1,500.00

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 brief verbal report was given about the Maple Specialists meeting. The audit committee recommended that the financial reports of the 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 2001. President, Hank Peterson — New Hampshire, Vice-President, Luc Lussier — Quebec and Secretary/Treasurer, Carl Vogt — Minnesota. A motion was made to have the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for all those nominated. Passed.





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Old Business: In January 1999, the council received a generous gift of \$30,000.00 from the estate of Dr. C.O. Willits. The gift was placed in a one year CD and has been earning interest which is payable in 2001. An additional \$10,000.00 gift was received in September 2000. A motion was made and passed to establish a Short & Long Range Planning Committee that will suggest options and provide direction for the council in a variety of areas. The following persons were appointed by President Peterson to the committee: Luc Lussier, QU, Richard Norman, CT, Mike Girard, CTt, Larry Yoder, IN, Doug Rose, VV and Hank Peterson, President, NH. The committee will report to the council at its Annual Meeting in 2001.

New Business: The council established a \$5,000.00 fund to be used in the development of a revised Maple Syrup Manual. A number of chapters will be rewritten and/or revised with the help of many people in the industry. Drs. Melvin R. Koelling, Michigan State University and Randall B. Heilgmann, Ohio State University have agreed to edit the revised manual. The new edition is expected to be completed and ready for publication by Fall 2002. Their being no further business, President Peterson adjourned the business meeting of the NAMSC at 9:30 a.m.

Open Poster Sessions and Technical Sessions were held in the morning. In addition a joint session of the NAMSC and IMSI heard a presentation by Aubry Davis from NASS. The results of Sap and Syrup Production in the U.S. for the 2000 season was highlighted. Mr. Davis commented on the fine cooperation he received from producers who furnish production information for the statistical survey.



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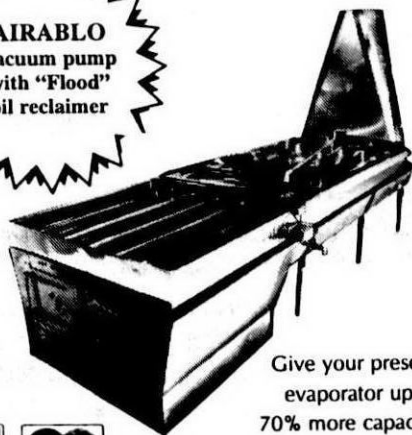
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Following a luncheon buffet, the Trade Show, Companion Tours, Poster Sessions and Technical Sessions resumed and continued until 5:30 p.m. Many positive comments were heard around the conference center regarding all aspects of the program. The Vermont Maple Sugarmakers Association who hosted the meetings made everyone feel welcome and provided an opportunity for everyone to learn more about the maple industry. 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. Two large video screens served as a backdrop and were used to show a variety of scenes throughout the program.

Mr. George Cook introduced President Hank Peterson who made a few brief comments and introduced the head table. Mr. Leon Graves, Vermont Commissioner of Agriculture welcomed everyone. After a delicious dinner and dessert George Cook and Larry Myott recognized those who contributed their time and talent to making Maple 2000 a very successful venture. Awards for the annual photo contest & the maple syrup were not available at press time. They will be listed in the February Issue of the Maple Digest.

Carl Vogt, Secretary/Treasurer NAMSC presented awards to: Jacque Couture, George Cook, Larry Myott, Roy Hutchinson and Mary Ellen Hutchinson for their contributions to the maple industry and the North American Maple Syrup Council.

Awards were also given by the IMSI for the Lynn Reynolds Memorial to Wilson "Bill" Clark of Vermont. The IMSI International Maple Syrup Contest winners were Citadell Maple Producers Cooperative of Plessisville, QU in the International Category and in the Gift Shop and Specialty Category, Vermont Maple Outlet of Jeffersonville, VT. The Council would like to thank all of the exhibitors for supporting the 2000 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 and new equipment will help everyone produce fine quality maple products now and in the future. The NAMSC extends a hearty "Thank You" to the Vermont Maple Sugarmakers Association for hosting this meeting. We look forward to seeing you next year in Minnesota 2001.

Carl Vogt, Secretary, North American Maple Syrup Council



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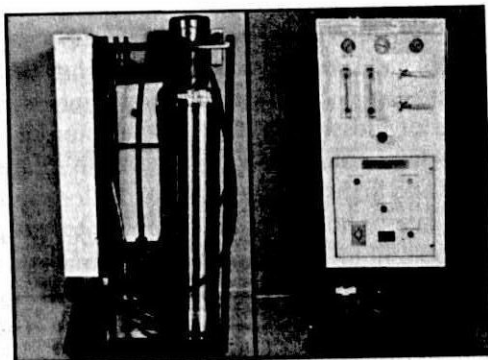
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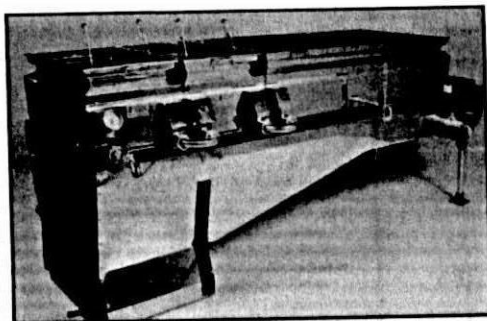
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MONITORING ICE STORM RECOVERY OF SUGAR BUSHES IN NORTHERN NEW YORK

Department of Natural Resources
Cornell University

Lewis J. Staats
Peter J. Smallidge
Marianne E. Krasny
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September 2000

Introduction

The January 1998 ice storm impacted sugarbush stands in several states and Canadian provinces. The damage in northern New York was at a level of severity for the six county region of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence to be declared a federal disaster area. In response, Cornell University has undertaken an ambitious program to evaluate sap production from ice damaged sugar maples, research the recovery of sugarbush stands, and develop silvicultural and tapping guidelines for impacted sugarbushes. Materials complementing the research have been developed and distributed by Cornell Cooperative Extension to maple producers and landowners. Funding and support from Cornell University — College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell Cooperative Extension, the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation is acknowledged.

RESEARCH PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Sugarbush recovery monitoring

At the time of the 1998 ice storm, information regarding the recovery of ice damaged sugar maples that have been tapped and managed for sap production was limited. Research to document pre-storm and post-storm conditions in active sugarbushes was established in early 1998. This study is designed to document initial ice-storm damage and measure the recovery of ice damaged sugar bushes for at least 4 consecutive years. Five permanent plots were placed at sites in 12 locations across four of the most severely ice damaged counties in northeastern New York (Clinton, Essex, Franklin, and St. Lawrence).

An array of criteria were used to select sites to establish the permanent plots. An evaluation of sugarbush damage by air surveys was initiated immediately following the ice storm, and followed with numerous ground survey of sites across the four counties. These included locations of previous study such as sugar bushes monitored by the North American Maple Project (NAMP) and those used in the NYS DEC Survey of Sugarbush Health in hopes that pre- and post-storm observations could be made. However, few of these plots received ice damage, and new plots were established during the summer of 1998. Criteria used to choose the sites included reasonable access, cooperation with landowner and/or sugarbush operator, damage level, age of site, management history and topography. The sugar bushes also had to have a minimum of 300 taps and be active in production (pre-storm).

The research plot design for this study follows the protocol developed by the US Forest Service Ice Storm Damage Assessment Group. This permits regional comparisons among participating states in the Northeast. Data collected for the study includes a variety of pre-storm and post-storm factors, including management history, ecological factors, individual tree characteristics indicative of health and vigor, and tree damage estimates. Sites were mapped and photographed, and soil sampling and analyses performed. Data will be analyzed and reported annually for the duration of the study. The first year report was provided to 200 maple producers and landowners attending the 1999 New York State Maple Tour held in Lewis County. After additional years of monitoring and evaluation, a best management practices guide for ice damaged sugarbush stands will be prepared. Supplementary data beyond the current 4-year monitoring period will be collected depending on the need and the availability of funds. Sites have also served for educational workshops and will continue to be available for demonstration.

Sap volume and sugar concentration of ice damaged sugar maples

With no information available regarding the effects of tapping trees recently effected by ice damage, a study to examine the sap volume yield and sugar concentration from individual sugar maples categorized by percent crown loss was initiated in 1998. The study site, located on an ice-damaged sugarbush near the Uihlein Sugar Maple Field Station of Cornell University, provides experi-

mental layout and sap data collection readily accessible for researchers based at the field station. The study was initiated in time to monitor effects for the 1998 sap production season and was continued during the 1999 and 2000 seasons.

Thirty-five trees, including forty taps, were examined and divided into four categories of damage: 0-10 percent (Class 1), 11-25 percent (Class 2), 26-50 percent (Class 3), and 51-75 percent crown loss (Class 4). During each sap production season, trees were tapped at a uniform height above the ground and on the same compass orientation. Individual sap collection tubing drop-lines attached to covered plastic buckets were used to collect sap from the individual tap-holes. For each season, sap volume and sugar content was measured from each bucket. Volume was measured in the field, while a representative 25 ml sample of sap per bucket was collected and measured at the station. Sap sugar concentration was determined using a tabletop Riechert Abbe Mark II digital refractometer, after allowing the samples to stabilize at room temperature. Taphole closure was measured following each growing season for the years the trees were tapped.

Relative volume yield among classes 1 through 3 during the third year of the study remained consistent with previous years; sap volume for Class 4, however, increased significantly. This suggests that after two growing seasons (post-storm), trees in the 51-75 percent crown loss class are showing recovery. There were no significant differences in sap sugar among classes for the three years of the study.

Small diameter spile versus traditional spile

With the interest exhibited by maple producers in the recent development of a smaller diameter spile by the maple equipment industry, a study was initiated at the Uihlein Field Station in 1999. The new spile, with a smaller diameter than that traditionally used for maple sap production, would reduce taphole size, increase rate of taphole closure, and potentially decrease the amount of discoloration zone within the tree. These factors would be favorable to stressed trees in ice-damaged sugarbushes.

The study design consists of replicated lines of 10 taps each installed within the field station sugarbush and sap collection high vacuum system. The lines were installed in a manner to allow collection and measurement of sap volume and sap sugar concentration on a daily basis. Both volumes and sugar concentration were monitored by treatment of traditional and smaller diameter spile. In addition, tap hole closure by treatment per year is measured following each growing season. Due to seasonal and individual tree variation, at least two years of data are required before firm results can be reported. Also, in an attempt to reduce the effects of tree variation, the spile treatments were alternated for the second year. This study is funded independently of the aforementioned ice storm projects.

Information shared through Cornell Cooperative Extension

In response to concerns voiced by Maple producers, several activities have taken place to share information concerning sugar maple producer

needs following the ice storm. Following preliminary workshops held by CCE shortly after the ice storm, one-day demonstrations were hosted by CCE in Clinton and St. Lawrence counties with presentations on recovery, safety, and assistance programs, and a visit to ice-damaged study sites. Segments of the 1998 and 1999 Cornell Maple Production Schools were devoted to a brief summary of information updates and project progress reports of ice storm recovery projects. The 1999 and 2000 New York State Maple Tours provided progress reports and on-site recovery plot demonstrations. Cornell University researchers, CCE educators, and maple producers have also participated in a program produced and aired by Mountain Lake Public Broadcasting (PBS). In addition, the New York Section of the Society of American Foresters Summer Meeting of 1999 visited Cornell ice Storm monitoring plots in northern New York and received progress reports from several recovery program researchers.

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6th Annual New York



Maple Producers Winter Conference

Saturday, January 6th, 2001 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School, Verona, NY

Central New York Maple Producer's Association and Lewis County Maple Producer's Association
In conjunction with the

V.V.S. FFA Youth Organization



V.V.S. is located between Utica and Syracuse just 2 minutes from the NYS Thruway. From east or west, take NYS Thruway exit 33. Other accessible roads include State Routes 5, 12, 26, 31, 46, or 365. Located on State Route 31 between Route 5 and 365.

Last year, more than 270 people participated in 21 different workshops with 15 maple dealer displays at the Conference. Some of their comments about last year's program included:

"A+ for All." "Well worth the money and time" "Excellent...this should be heard by all"
"Great variety" "Very good, valuable information" "Good data...Audience participation excellent"
"Very impressive program" "Glad I came...will come again next year" "Look forward to next year"

Topics for this year to include:

- Production – Tubing and Sap Extractors, The Economics of Tubing and Vacuum Systems, Controls in the Sugar House, Computerize Cost Analysis of Evaporator Efficiencies, Syrup Bottling Demonstration, Syrup Filter Press Demonstration, State Regulations for Food Processing Establishments, Grading, Classification, and Labeling of Maple Products, Business Financial Practices for Small Producers, and State Maple Producer's Association Member Benefits.
- Marketing – Baking with Maple, Cooking with Maple, Making Maple Sugar, Making Maple Cream, Designing Custom Labels for Maple Syrup Containers, Developing a Maple Business Market, Packaging with Glass, Maple Meets the Internet, Tour of V.V.S. FFA Maple Market, and Maple Promotion: It's All Elementary, Maple Promotion Update: Maple Sunday and NYS DOT Signs.
- Advanced Technologies and Research – Sugar Maple Tree Improvement Program, Small Diameter Spout Research Update, Developments in Sap and Syrup Filtration, Ozone Update, Stop the Decline of Maples – One Producer's Perspective, and Operating Techniques and Economic Efficiencies of Reverse Osmosis and SteamAway Equipment.

For more information contact: Keith Schiebel, FFA Advisor

Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Central School, Route 31, Verona, New York 13478

School: (315) 829-2787 Fax: (315) 829-4949 Email: kschiebel@vvs-csd-high.moric.org



Dealer/Presenter Inquires Welcomed





A penny for every container you fill.

If everyone contributed a penny for every syrup container they filled, those pennies would easily provide the additional thousands of dollars needed annually to fund maple research.

The Research Fund depends solely on this "penny per container" program to fund research. Many already participate but we need everyone's help.

Regardless of the amount of syrup you produce or maple product you market, there are common issues that affect all of us. Research must continue in the areas of tree health, insect infestation, syrup production and packaging methods, marketing, syrup adulteration and a host of other concerns vital to the future of maple.

Donations can be made through your plastic, glass or metal container suppliers who participate in this program or you may send us contributions direct.

To all those who are participating in this program we thank you for your continued support. To those of you who are not, its time to join in and contribute to this important effort.

For more information please contact:

Richard P. Norman, Chairman, 387 County Road, Woodstock, CT 06281

Phone 860 974-1235, Email: r.norman@snet.net

Michael A. Girard, Treasurer, 39 Old Mill Court, Simsbury, CT 06070

Phone 860 658-5790, Email: mgirard@simscroft.com

The NAMSC-Research Fund is a non-profit, volunteer managed committee of the North American Maple Syrup Council, Inc.

2001 MAPLE PRODUCTION SCHOOL SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2001

HOSTED BY

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
CORNELL DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CORNELL MEDIA SERVICES
NEW YORK STATE MAPLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

The 2001 Maple Production School will be broadcast via satellite from Cornell University on Saturday, **January 20, 2001**. 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 5, 2001 and \$150 after January 5, 2001 (registration deadline is January 12, 2001).

The program will be of interest for both large and small maple producers for improving production efficiency and increasing profits. The tentative program will include:

- Maple marketing strategies for increased sales and profit shared by maple producers.
- New York's Tourist Destination Sign (New York State Department of Transportation) for sugarhouses — an exciting way to identify the maple industry.
- Agroforestry and maple — a two-year program to engage extension educators and maple producers in on-farm research of sugar maple seedling field trials.
- Current and proposed research projects will be reviewed, extension events highlighted.
- Announcements of maple events.
- Basics of maple production; live call-in questions and answers

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

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

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

Glen Palmer (607) 255-8162

Contributions to the NORTH AMERICAN MAPLE SYRUP COUNCIL RESEARCH FUND Contributions from 9/1/99 to 8/31/00

Please send all contributions to: North American Maple Syrup Council Research Fund in care of Michael Girard, 39 Old Mill Court, Simsbury, CT 06070-1952. Make check payable to: NORTH AMERICAN MAPLE SYRUP COUNCIL - RESEARCH FUND.

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 Bacon Jug Company, Littleton, NH
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 Bear Run Tree Farm, Aurora, WV
 Berkshire School, Sheffield, MA
 Black Creek Farms, Croghan, NY
 Blue Heron Farm, Charlemont, MA
 Bragg Farm, E. Montpelier, VT
 Breakneck Ridge Farm, Abbot Village, ME
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 Brown Family Farm, Putney, VT
 Burton Chamber of Commerce, Burton, OH
 Butternut Mountain Farm, Morrisville, VT
 Charlies Sugarhouse, Greene, RI
 Citadelle, Maple Syrup Prod. Co-op.,
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 Davenport Maple Farm, Shelburne Falls, MA
 Dix Family Sugarhouse, Jacksonville, VT
 Donald Dodd, Niles, MI
 Dubes Pure Maple Products, Eagle Lake, ME
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 Fitch Pharm Farm, Ashland, OH
 Flattery's Maple Products, Cooksburg, PA
 Fraser's Vermont Maple, Putney, VT
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 Girard's Sugar House, Heath, MA
 Goodrich's Sugar House, Cabot, VT
 Gormly's Orchard, N. Chittenden, VT
 Green Mt. Sugar House, Ludlow, VT
 Hall Farm Maple Products, East Dixfield, ME
 Hamley's Maple Farm, Barton, NY
 Hannon's Sugar House, Lebanon, CT
 Hillside Plastics, Inc., Turners Falls, MA
 Hoisington Farm, Hartland, VT
 Indian Creek Sugar Camp, Dayton, OH
 Indian Mission Enterprises, Federal Dam, MN
 Indian Water Maple Co., New Creek, WV
 Ivan Puffenbarger, Blue Grass, VA
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 Jorns' Sugar Bush, Egg Harbor, WI
 K.E. Farm and Sugarhouse, Sturbridge, MA
 Kennedy Farms, Omemee, Ont
 Ken's Maple Equipment, New Castle, IN
 Kievla Sugar Bush, Brantwood, WI
 Kinney Maple Supplies, Thorndike, ME
 Lamothe's Sugarhouse, Burlington, CT
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 Maple Hill Farm, Cobleskill, NY
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Adams Center, NY
Tamarack Farm, Canterbury, NH
The Bacon Jug Company, Lancaster, PA
The Corse Farm, Whitingham, VT
The Sugar Shack, Millinockett, ME
Toad Hill Maple Products, Athol, NY
Top Notch, Stowe, VT
Troy Firth, Spartanburg, PA
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Montpelier, VT
Vermont Syrup Works, Norwich, VT
Wagner's Sugar House, Chrivitz, WI
Ward's Maple Products, Smithfield Flats, NY
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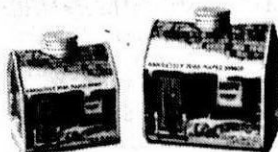
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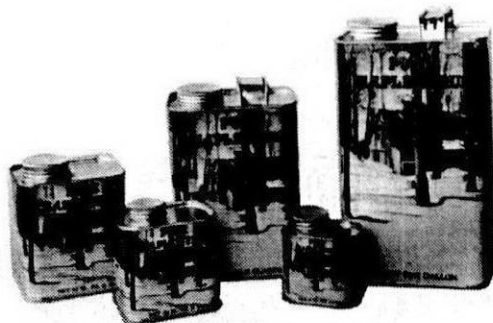
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COMING EVENTS

NEW YORK MAPLE PRODUCERS CONFERENCE

January 6th, 2001 — 8:30a.m.-4:30 p.m.

V.V.S. High School, Verona, NY

For more information contact:

Keith Schiebel (315) 829-2520, fax (315) 829-4949

email: kschiebel@vvs-csd-high.moric.org

MICHIGAN MAPLE SYRUP ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

January 20, 2001

Doherty Hotel, Clare Michigan

For more information contact:

Larry Haigh — lehaigh@voyager.net

HEBRON'S 11TH ANNUAL MAPLE FESTIVAL

March 10 & 11, 2001

For more information contact:

Barbara or Selden Wells 860-228-9503



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