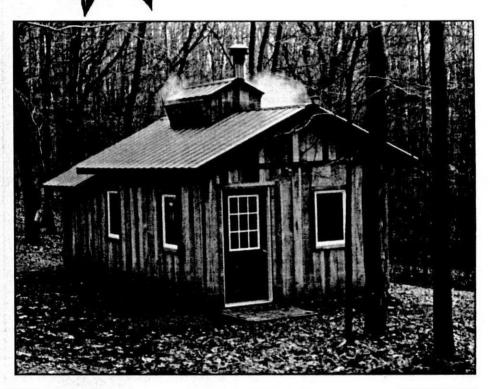
# Maple Syrup Digest



VOL. 14A, NO. 2

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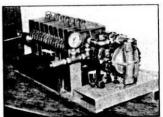
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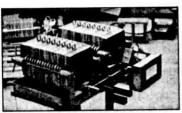
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### MAPLE SYRUP DIGEST

Official publication of the NORTH AMERICAN MAPLE SYRUP COUNCIL

# DIRECTORY

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COVER: Sugarhouse of James M. Ferguson, Bridgeport, West Virginia.

# GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



At this moment, the 2002 maple season has come to a close. It is still too early to determine the official results. but overall the season seems to be considerably good as far as in quantity as well as in quality. This year, the colder temperatures have limited the production from the maple farms located in the northern parts due to the slow melting due to extensive cold. As for the southern sectors, we have seen very good results. According to what I have heard, the production of maple syrup in the United States is superior to that of last year. This is also the same for the southern part of Quebec and Ontario. The Eastern part of Quebec, along with New Brunswick seem to have also experienced superior results compared to last year. For the rest of the regions, it seems to be an average year, but differing from one producer to another.

In Quebec, the sales agency is in full force and they have placed numerous controls to insure that everyone respects quality norms at each maple farm and each warehouse where syrup is being received. This is a positive aspect, because this practice will ensure that the consumer's needs will be met.

It is already time for us to plan our next annual meeting which is to be held in North Conway, New Hampshire, an extraordinary location. I hope that we will be a large number present in October.

Have a safe and happy Summer.

# **NOUVELLES DE VOTRE PRÉSIDENT**

À ce moment-ci, la saison des sucres 2002 est faite. Il est encore trop tôt pour en connaître les résultats officiellement mais dans l'ensemble, la récolte semble assez bonne autant en quantité qu'en qualité. Cette année, les températures plus froides ont limité la production des érablières exposées au nord qui ne dégelaient pas tandis qu'au sud, il y avait de bonnes coulées. Selon ce que j'ai entendu, la production aux EtatsUnis est supérieure à l'an passé et c'est ainsi pour les régions sud et sud-ouest du Québec et de l'Ontario. L'est du Québec et le Nouveau-Brunswick semblent aussi avoir eu de meilleurs résultats que l'an dernier. Pour les autres régions, c'est une récolte moyenne bien que très variable d'un producteur à l'autre.

Au Québec, l'Agence de vente est en place et plusieurs contrôles pour le respect des normes de qualité sont faits dans les érablières et dans les entrepôts de réception. Ceci est positif pour améliorer les pratiques et atteindre les exigences des consommateurs.

Il est déjà temps de voir à notre prochain meeting annuel qui aura lieu à North Conway, New Hampshire, dans un site extraordinairement splendide. J'espère que nous serons nombreux à s'y rendre en octobre.

Bon été à tous.

Luc Lussier, President

North American Maple Syrup Council

### **DEAR EDITOR**

I am looking forward to receiving the Maple Syrup Digest. We are new at sugaring and have a lot to learn.

Last year we made nineteen gallons on a 19 x 66 Waterloo Small and we were busy. It is a family affair with my twenty four-year-old son, Nathan and wife, Barbara. We all work together gathering and keeping the fire burning. We decided last year making syrup was the hardest we had worked in a long time! As we learn some of the tricks to the trade, we hope to expand.

Enclosed is a photo of the Ferguson Family sugar house in West Virginia. (See cover).

Yours Truly, James M. Ferguson

### **DEAR EDITOR**

RE: Contajus Diseezes

This disease has been in our family for over 150 years. My great, great, grandfather had it in 1842. It has been passed down thru the family, (I think it is in the genes).

My uncle had a temporary cure or relief from the onset, every spring when it hit him he said the cure was to tap a tree. The more he tapped the quicker the relief.

The disease hit me before I was 12 years old and now at 84 I have a hard time fighting it off. It is only

the middle of March and and I wonder how completely I have cured it because every day that it looks like the sap might run I get those twinges.

Sincerely, Neil Wright

P.S. Bob Lamb's remarks were if you tapped maple trees more than two years you deserved a degree in damn foolishment!





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# **IMSI NEWS**

By Larry Myott, Executive Secretary

Once again we got a mixed bag of weather for the sugar season, and the results around the maple world were pretty mixed as well. Vermont had an excellent season as did the surrounding states. We've heard from Quebec that, in early May, some areas may be still producing. Initial reports are the Quebec crop may be down from what is considered normal.

Prices are stable in all areas including Quebec with their new pricing structure implemented by the Federation of Quebec Agricultural Producers. I'm sure this will be a major item of discussion at the October annual meetings of the IMSI and NAMSC in New Hampshire.

Quality is once again excellent, with all areas reporting a high percentage of Light and Extra Light. In Vermont there is a higher percentage of "Fancy" than in many years with a high quantity as well.

At the early May meeting of the IMSI, in Montreal, the members discussed the use of paraformaldehyde and denatured alcohol as tap hole sanitizers. We were assured that, at the request of the IMSI, the provincial government of Quebec had made every effort to make sure that the PFA "pill" is not used in Quebec. Studies are continuing on the use of denatured alcohol.

IMSI President Mary Douglass of Michigan, continues to redevelop the IMSI with strategic planning and the implementation of plans laid at the Minnesota meetings in the fall of 2001. The IMSI is developing an inter-

national web site on the internet and will post vital information for its members and marketers.

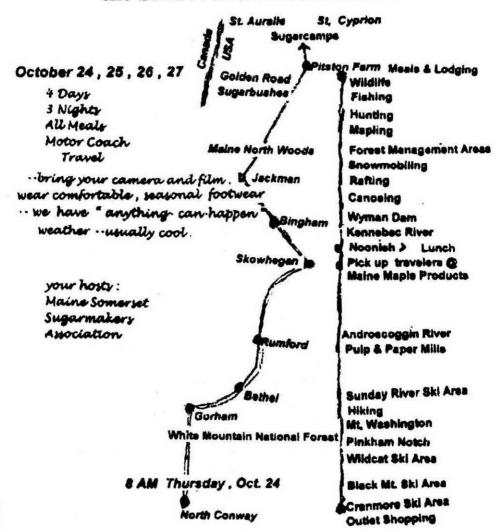
In Vermont, a few maple producers have been making an issue of the origin of maple syrup and how it is labeled. The group is asking for a clear labeling policy on what would leave little doubt in the retail customers mind of the origin of the syrup in the package. The publicity surrounding this issue has raised questions as to the authenticity of Pure Vermont Maple Syrup and the ethics of the industry. A committee, appointed by the Vermont Maple Industry Council and the Vermont Maple Sugar Maker's Association is studying the issues and will make recommendations to Vermont's Commissioner of Agriculture.

At the February meeting of the IMSI members had the pleasure of meeting at the Red lacket Inn in North Conway, NH. This is an excellent facility in the White Mountains that will host the October 20 - 23 meetings of the IMSI and NAMSC. I highly recommend that you make plans now to participate. You can make your reservations now at the Red Jacket Inn. Go to their web site for hotel information, if you call to register, ask for the special rate for the internation-Web site: al meetings. maple http://.redjacketmountainview.com/

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Prices are not yet confirmed but will be on your reservation sheet that will come with your Show packet. We will be available at the NAMSC/IMSI Annual Meeting for inquiries and last minute vacancies.

# MAPLE NEWS FROM MASSACHUSETTS

By Tom McCrumm

The 2002 maple sugaring season finished about ten days early, just as it started. Despite fears of a poor production year due to a lack of snow, and warm, dry winter conditions, most Massachusetts producers reported an average or better than average crop. Some producers said they had their best year ever. Probably as a result of warm temperatures and the trees not being frozen, most all producers were gathering and boiling within a day or two of tapping, and just about everyone was making light or extra light amber syrup. It seemed that no matter what you did; you made light syrup, even with day old mid-season sap.

The Mass Maple association summer

picnic on July 28th, will be hosted by association President Ian Wentworth and husband Dale, who sugar in North Brookfield, MA. Their small farm recently participated in the Mass Department of Food and Agriculture's Farm Viability Program. With this assistance they were able to build a fully approved commercial kitchen, in which they make all sorts of maple confections for their retail and wholesale trade. The summer picnic will include a tour of the new kitchen, instruction and demonstrations for making maple cream, and information of the Farm Viability Program, which is still being funded despite state cutbacks. Information will also be presented on the Farm Stewardship Program which will assist maple producers with obtaining permission to tap trees on state owned land, such as state parks and forests.



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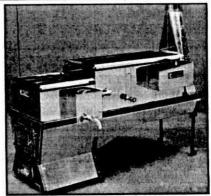


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# NEW HAMPSHIRE MAPLE MUSEUM BEING PLANNED

By Barbara Mills Lassonde

Charlie Stewart grew up in Sugar Hill, New Hampshire, in the heart of the White Mountains. As with most New Hampshire farms before WWII, maple production was a spring-time ritual at the Stewart farm. When he was old enough to help, Charlie began a lifetime of sugaring, and at one time had 15,000 taps. Now, with help from his daughter and his nephew, he maintains 7,000 - 8,000 taps. He lives on the same farm where he grew up, and his sugar house is just across the road.

Last July, Charlie hosted the summer meeting of the New Hampshire Maple Producers Association and proudly showed us his farm, the flower gardens his 91-year-old mother keeps, and his huge collection of maple memorabilia. From the wooden sap trough that collected sap under a tree in 1780 and the 150-year-old poplar sap yoke to the early syrup containers and the 1916 metal tubing, this collection will take your breath away.

Charlie has spent a good part of his adult life collecting these artifacts — enough to fill a museum. And that's exactly what he wants to do with them. His dream is to have this collection housed in New Hampshire's first maple museum under the stewardship of our association. One of the stipulations to accepting this gift is that we house it in a fire safe building.

Because we are a small association

(335 members) with limited funds, financing such a building, cataloging the artifacts and staffing the museum will not be an easy task, but one our Board of Directors is committed to make happen.

And . . . we need help! If you've been involved in starting a museum or have information on how to do it, we hope you will share with us what you've learned along the way. We could use a list of things we should do and the order they should be done, information on funding and staffing a museum, cataloging the artifacts, or any problems you faced and how you handled them.

We've had no experience with anything like this, so we're not sure just where to begin. Can you help us? Please mail any suggestions you have to: Barbara Lassonde, 79 Fisherville Road, Concord, N H 03303. or E-mail me at Donlass@aol.com.

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# NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN MAPLE MUSEUM

By Eleanor Allen

By the time you read this, the American Maple Museum will have celebrated its re-opening for its 25th year of operation with a day of festivities, both inside the Museum and on its lawn, on May 18th. As usual the reopening celebration included a pancake breakfast, a chicken barbecue, an equipment display with manufacturers coming from as far as Vermont and Quebec, and a craft fair, as well as the inductions into the Maple Hall of Fame, Also, the New York State Maple Producers selected their annual Maple Queen. This year, many of the rooms and hallways in the Museum have received a fresh coat of paint, and the Museum has a beautiful new sign in time for the re-opening ceremonies.

Biographies of the two inductees into the American Maple Museum Hall of Fame, Richard P. Norman, and Dr. Randall B. Heiligmann, appeared in the February issue of the Maple Digest. News about the New York State Maple Producers Maple Queen contest will have to wait until the October issue since the results are not yet known as this is written.

From April until June, a local preschool will be renting a portion of the Museum building to hold classes on weekday mornings when they won't conflict with the Museum's normal hours of operation. This is a trial and, if it works well, will help the Museum budget while also providing a useful community service.

During the months of July and August, the Museum will be open Monday through Saturday, 11 A.m. until 4 p.m. In June and September it is open on Friday, Saturday, and Monday, or by appointment. There will again be a Lawn Festival and Ice Cream Social on July 4th with lively entertainment. Group tours are always welcome and can be arranged by calling 315-346-1107. The mailing address for the Museum is PO Box 81, Croghan, NY 13327. Please come visit your Museum!

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# PA 2002 STATE TOUR

The 2002 PA State Maple Tour will be held October 26-28 in Somerset County. Headquarters will be at Indian Lake Lodge located 2 miles south of Route 30. It's hard to guess the peak of the season, but Mt. Davis, the highest point in Pennsylvania, and the tolling Laurel Ridge Mountains normally exhibit a blazing red, gold and yellow treat at this time of year.

Along with several old and new sugar camps, educational spots and maple dealer exhibits, there will be an inside look at a windmill on one of the new windmill farms. Another special stop on the agenda will spend a bit of time at the Flight #93 Memorial where a representative of the memorial committee will speak to the group and answer questions.

A complete agenda, registration forms, and motel and campground availability will be sent to regular participants and be accessible at PA Extension Offices. If you would like to participate or have questions, you may direct them to Wilma Emerick, 156 Ridge Road, Hyndman, PA 15545, Phone: 814-324-4536 or Barbara Wright: pbs@juno.com.

For those who may plan an extended vacation to Somerset County or the Laurel Highlands, a music festival, a glass and ethnic festival, the Berlin Whiskey Rebellion celebration, the Mountain Playhouse and a craft festival are all within 30 miles of Somerset and are being held on overlap time. Seven Springs and Hidden Valley Resorts, and Idlewild Amusement Park are nearby at 1-800-333-5661 or www.laurelhighlands.org.

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# MAINE MAPLING

By Dawn Bolduc

Our Maine Maple Producers Association opened the new year with their annual meeting at the Ag Trade Show in Augusta. The featured speaker was Lynn Lang on candy and cream making. The popularity of this presentation is always outstanding and lasted well into the afternoon. Then it was election time and the outgoing president, Eric Ellis, moved to a directors position and Robert Smith was voted into the presidential position, as he has been at several other times. John Hodgkins brings his stable guidance to the V.P. chair and Jeremy Steeves continues as our secretary/treasurer. New directors this year are Michael Bryant of Newfield and loe Suga of Vassalboro.

The marketing committee (Eric Ellis, Alfred Bolduc and Robert Smith) were pleased to announce that with their combined efforts along with John Rebarr, Director for Ag. and Natural Resources for the University Extension Service and Cathy Hopkins, our state Extension Service Maple Specialist, received 100% of the \$23,000 grant for which they applied. Notably, there was \$100,000 in this grant available to all Maine commodity groups, and with our newly recognized importance we were pleased to receive a lion's share. Major emphasis of the



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Kathy Hopkins has made available a Quality and Assurance book for the maple industry, with funding from the State Dept. of Quality and Assurance headed by Dave Gagnon. This is the first new publication on mapling in Maine in 30 years. Three dollars will put a copy in your hands.

MMPA is still struggling with the county chapter issue. The board of directors feels that a series of non structured meetings might bring in more non member producer. Even as non members they do, of course, benefit from all that the core

group does. Let's hear from you.

The Governor's Tree Tapping was held with greater appeal. The media coverage was the best in six years and extended interest over several weeks. Our Maine Maple Sunday, a 20 year endeavor, is more popular than ever. It is noteworthy that other states now recognize the value of this presentation. Many of our producers have as many as 1500 visitors on this day and sell most of their crop at this time.

Numerous trade shows have opened more exposure and extended markets partnering with Deanne Herman of the State Division of Marketing. Robert Smith and Alfred Bolduc exhibited, at the Restaurant and Lodging Show in Portland, and the specialty Food Show also have an increased number of maple producers. Some members are involved with the Canada Parkway, a national road way designation,



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plans for maple signage, interpreted kiosks, and a maple industry diorama. Grant money is in hand for a maple museum in the Jackman area that will document mapling in Maine, from the painted people to the latest technologies.

A new venue for maple tasting and advancing is the first annual St. John Baptiste Day, in Bingham. This will be a Franco/American festival with ethnic

foods, music and performers.

We are closer now to our Show after the Show, at North Conway. This year we will have a three day tour with more time to visit the more northern sugar camps. The producers are looking forward to opening their sugarhouses and bushes for you.

The Maine congressional offices of Snow, Baldacci and Collins have worked with the Somerset County sugarmakers on new border crossing rules that became an issue here.

Kathy Hopkins, our Extension Maple Specialist, held a Maple School program from Cornell via satellite at the University of Maine at Orono. Cornell thought that this might be the last year of satellite produced meetings as they expect to continue these with fiber optic technology. And there was standing room only at Cathy Hopkins Maple School held at the Hinkley School. Presentations were on grading, pipeline installations, fine tuning your evaporator, as well as the Hinkley School student sugarbush.

The Somerset County sugarmakers met in Jackman on May 18th, their second



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Though many of our Somerset County Sugarmakers are sill boiling at this writing date they all report a good season of good color and high quality with the

tonnage down just a little due to erratic weather patterns.

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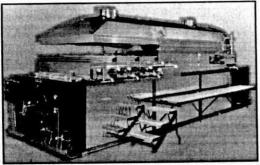
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# L'ACÉRICULTURE AU MAINE

Notre association de producteurs de sirop d'érable du Maine (MMPA) a débuté la nouvelle année avec son assemblée annuelle, tenue lors de et dans le cadre de l'Exposition Agricole d'Augusta. La conférencière principale a été Lynn Lang qui nous a entretenu au sujet de la fabrication de bonbons et de crème d'érable. Jouissant d'une popularité soutenue, la conférence s'est poursuivie et terminée en après-midi.

Ensuite, ce fut la période des élections, au cours de laquelle le président sortant, Eric Ellis, est redevenu simple administrateur, alors que Robert Smith a été élu président, poste qu'il a d'ailleurs souvent occupé par le passé. John Hodgkins a accepté de nous faire profiter de son expérience en occupant le poste de vice-président, tandis que Jeremy Steeves demeure le sercétaire/trésorier. Les nouveaux directeurs élus cette année sont: Joe Suga de Vassalboro et Michael Bryant de Newfield.

Le comité du marketing (Eric Ellis, Alfred Bolduc et Robert Smith) était heureux d'annoncer que suite à leurs efforts, combinés à ceux de John Rebarr, directeur du Service de l'Extension sur l'agriculture et les ressources naturelles à l'Université du Maine, ainsi qu'à ceux de Cathy Hopkins, spécialiste de la production acéricole au sein de ce Service, il s'est vu octroyer la totalité (100%) de la subvention de 23,000\$, pour laquelle il avait fait une demande. Rappelons qu'il y avait une enveloppe totale de 100,000\$ en subventions disponibles pour l'ensemble des productions du Maine, et que, puisque l'importance de notre association est maintenant mieux reconnue, nous avons eu la chance de nous accaparer une partie enviable de l'assiette (tarte). La majeure partie de cette subvention servira à faire reconnaître nationalement et internationalement la qualité intrinsèque du sirop du Maine et, ainsi, obtenir une valeur accrue pour nos exportations.

Cathy Hopkins a produit, et rendu disponible aux producteurs, un guide pour assurer la qualité dans l'industrie des produits de l'érable, avec le support et l'aide financière du département de la qualité et de l'assurance du Maine, dirigé par Dave Gagnon. C'était la première publication à se faire sur la production acéricole dans le Maine en 30 ans. Vous pouvez vous en procurer une copie pour seulement trois (3) dollars.

L'association des producteurs acéricoles du Maine (MMPA) est toujours partagée sur le sort (statut) à attribuer à la section (chapitre) du comté de Somerset. Le bureau de direction est d'avis que des assemblées non structurées pourraient regrouper et attirer plus de producteurs non-membre, et ce en dépit du fait que les non-membres, bien sûr, profitent du travail et de ce que l'association peut accomplir. Votre opinion à ce sujet serait bienvenue.

L'ouverture de la période d'entaillage par le Gouverneur (Governor's Tree Tapping) a été mieux annoncée. La couverture médiatique de cet événement a été la meilleure en six ans, et elle s'est étendue sur plusieurs semaines. Notre Dimanche de l'Erable au Maine (Maine Maple Sunday), qui existe depuis main-

tenant 20 ans, est plus populaire que jamais. Il est à noter que d'autre États reconnaissent maintenant l'importance et la pertinence de cet événement. L'ensemble de nos producteurs reçoivent plus de 1500 visiteurs pendant cette journée, et écoulent

alors la majeure partie de leur production faite à cette époque.

Plusieurs expositions (trade show) nous ont donné une plus grande visibilité et nous ont orienté vers de nouveaux marchés, grâce à la collaboration de Deanne Herman, du bureau de marketing de l'Etat du Maine. Robert Smith et Alfred Bolduc ont exposé au Salon de la restauration et de l'hôtellerie (Restaurant and Lodging Show) de Portland, et il y a eu une augmentation notable du nombre de producteurs acéricoles qui ont participé à l'Exposition des Produits et Spécialités Alimentaires (Specialty Food Show). Quelques membres sont impliqués dans le projet Canada Parkway (le nom d'une route nationale), où il y aura de mis en place des kiosques d'interprétation de l'érable, de la signalisation spécifique, ainsi qu'un diaporama sur l'industrie de l'érable. Une subvention a également été obtenue pour l'établissement d'un musée de l'érable, dans la région de Jackman, qui va relater l'histoire et l'évolution de l'industrie de l'érable, d'hier à aujourd'hui.

Une nouveauté (primeur) pour la dégustation et la promotion des produits de l'érable sera le tout premier dimanche de la St-Jean Baptiste, le 23 juin, à Bingham. Ce sera un festival franco-américain, avec de la nourriture, de la

musique et des spectacles (ethniques) d'usage.

Le Show after the Show, à North Conway, s'en vient à grands pas. Cette année, nous aurons une tournée de trois jours, ce qui nous donnera plus de temps pour visiter les cabanes situées plus au nord. Les producteurs concernés attendent avec impatience de vous recevoir dans leurs érablières.

Les membres des bureaux de Snow, Baldacci et Collins, représentants du Maine au Congrès des U.S.A., ont collaboré avec l'Association des Producteurs de Sucre du comté de Somerset, à trouver une solution (compromis) à la nouvelle réglementation et aux restrictions imposées pour traverser les frontières, qui étaient devenues problématiques pour les producteurs situés le long de la frontière Canada-U.S.

Cathy Hopkins, notre Spécialiste en développement, a mis en place et dirigé, depuis Cornell via satellite, un programme d'école de l'érable à l'Université du Maine d'Orono. Cornell est d'avis que ça pourrait être la dernière année que ça se fait via satellite, car elle songe à poursuivre en optant pour la technologie de la fibre optique. La formation et les présentations ont porté sur le classement du sirop, l'installation des tubes et l'ajustement des évaporateurs, aussi bien que sur l'Ecole acéricole expérimentale Hinkley.

L'association des producteurs de sucre du comté de Somerset se réunira le 18 mai prochain, à Jackman, pour sa première assemblée générale annuelle, suivant son assemblée de formation en juin 2001. Ce groupe représente près de un million et demi d'entailles (+/-1 500 000), ce qui fait de ce comté (Somerset) le plus grand producteur (#1) de sirop d'érable aux États-Unis. Ce sera un événement bilingue, suivi d'un buffet. Les conférenciers devraient être: Aubrey Davis, du USDA (Service de la Statistique) de Concord, N.H., Deanne Herman, du

June 2002 21

Département du Marketing et de la Production au gouvernement du Maine, Bruce Hazard, de Mountain Héritage (une firme nationale de consultants) et Charles Felix Roth, de la Fédération Américaine de l'Érable, ainsi que possiblement d'autres qui n'ont pas encore confirmé leur participation.

Au moment d'écrire ces lignes, il semble que bon nombre de nos producteurs font encore bouillir, et que la plupart disent avoir connu une bonne saison, avec une production de belle couleur et d'excellente qualité, mais en quantité quelque peu moindre que la moyenne des dernières saisons, en raison des soubresauts de la température (très inégale).

Comme vous pouvez le constater, nous sommes très actifs et nous aimerions vraiment compter sur la participation (contribution) de chacun à notre mieux-être collectif!

Felicitations et levons notre chapeau au Maple Digest, qui nous offre enfin un texte rédigé en français!



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# **EXACTLY WHAT IS A NORMAL SEASON?!!**

Taken from the Tapline Quarterly publication of the Indiana Maple Syrup Association

Jeff Settle, forester with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, said that the 2002 season came early and yielded only about half to three fourths of the normal crop.

Several producers around the state chose not to tap at all because the winter had been so warm and weather so unreliable.

A few in the northern part of the state tapped in late January, an unusual three to four weeks earlier than normal. Most in the norther tier of counties tapped in the first ten days of February, still earlier than normal. Those in the central and southern dis-

tricts had little choice but to begin then, and the January taps ran normally for a while, but with no frost in the ground and weather patterns that would not behave normally, the runs soon gave out.

An ice storm on January 30 added an unexpected challenge for sugar-makers in the northern counties. Severe damage occurred in a few areas. For the most part, downed limbs were only a nuisance for most producers as they got ready to tap.

Lowell Williams who taps about 400 trees near Bedford reported below average production. "It seemed like we'd get two or three warm days in a row and then it would turn off cold for a while. We never got the cycle of warm days and freezing nights like we should."

About the time southern producers were ready to pull their spiles, the north was hit with the coldest tem-

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peratures of the entire winter. The Yoder Sugarbush just north of Fort Wayne recorded an overnight temperature of 0 degrees the first week of March, Bill and Kim Owen of Maple Acres near Avilla reported a stretch of nearly 15 days with no sap collection because of the cold weather. That long period meant that tapholes had started to dry by the time the proper temperatures returned. David Hamilton, New Castle, tapped about two week earlier than normal and then re-bored his tap holes at mid season. He estimates his production at about 30% of normal. and he attributed it to the mild winter, dry weather and the lack of sugar weather when it was needed.

There was no frost in the ground in the woods all winter. While that detracted from the quality of the runs, Hoosier sugarmakers did find that ruts weren't as deep on the gathering roads and it was easier to get around in the woods this year. There was less precipitation earlier in the winter, and what moisture did fall went on into the ground with no frost to stop it.

Indiana sugarmakers still hang a lot of buckets, and this was the first year that the smaller 5/16" spiles were readily available for those producers.

In spite of Indiana's small size in terms of production (at the international meetings we're affectionately likened to the Jamaican Bobsled Feam in the Olympics). Hoosier sugaring is alive and well. Some families are resuming production after some years of inactivity, and new or upgraded operations are coming on line.

Attendance at our annual meetings continues to increase as producers gather the first Saturday in December to improve their skills in sugarmaking and examine the latest in equipment.



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Filtering of Maple Sap

# PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Influence of Elevated Manganese on Photosynthesis in Sugar Maple

These are a few of the research projects selected to receive funding this year from the NAMSC-Research Fund. Your voluntary donation of a penny for every container you fill helps us reach our goals. Donations can be made through your plastic, glass or metal container suppliers or you may send your contributions to us direct.

Our thanks to all of you who actively support this important program and we invite those not yet participating, to join us in investing "a penny per container" for the future of maple.

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, 352 Firetown Road, 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. (6/02)

# DELAWARE COUNTY TO HOST 2002 STATE MAPLE TOUR Delhi — July 18-20

Located on the western slopes of the Catskill Mountains with its wooded hillsides and scenic valleys, family farms, over seven hundred miles of fishing streams, covered bridges and breathtaking beauty. Delaware County will be the setting for the 2002 New York State Maple Tour. The Delaware County Maple Producers Association and the Catskills Area Maple **Producers** Association, in cooperation with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County, will be hosting the tour July 18-20.

Two words of advice: register early. The 2002 New York State Maple Tour will be centered in Delhi, New York at the American Legion Hall where registration, a maple syrup industry trade show, breakfast, Social Hours and the Friday night banquet will take place. People from across New York, Canada and the northeastern states will come to learn more about making maple syrup and maple products.

Registration must be received by June 18, 2002. For registration and lodging information call Paul and Marge Aitken: (607) 746-7708 or visit the Cornell University's Maple Web Site (http://maple.dnr.cornell.edu) where the registration form and information can be downloaded. No registrations will be taken by telephone.

With approximately 669,000 acres of forested lands, Delaware County is the 5th largest maple-producing county in New York. In this year's tour,

eight maple operations will be visited. covering a wide range of operations, both in size, output, and sap collection techniques. Several relatively "new producers" will show what can be accomplished in a few short years of growth. Other more "seasoned" producers will show how growth in technology and marketing goes handin-hand — when you make more, you need to sell more. Marketing techniques, packaging options, sap collection, tapping methods, advances in equipment and technology - all will be part of this educational and entertaining tour. Each operation has a story to tell and when you see the equipment, maple tree plantations, farm stores, and packaging innovations, you will get a taste of the excitement that this product evokes.

The tour will also include a stop at the lovely Hanford MIIIs Museum, one of the few water powered woodworking mill sites in existence today, and lunch near the newly rebuilt Hamden Covered Bridge.

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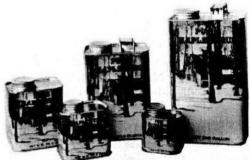
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# **COMING EVENTS**

### NEW YORK STATE MAPLE TOUR

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For more information contact:

Margie Aitken (607) 746-7708 or visit Cornell University's Maple Web Site http://maple.dnr.cornell.edu registration forms can be down loaded

### NAMSC AND IMSI ANNUAL MEETING

October 20-23, 2001

North Conway, New Hampshire

For more information contact:

Mary Ellen Hutchinson, PO Box 240, Canterbury, NH 03224 Fax: (603) 783-9953 or Email: mapledigest@tds.net

### PENNSYLVANIA STATE MAPLE TOUR

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# NAMSC/IMSI ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

The committee has been finalizing plans for the 43rd annual meeting of the NAMSC/IMSI in New Hampshire at the Red Jacket Inn in North Conway, October 20-23.

Sunday afternoon will be registration and meetings for extension personnel and NAMSC delegates meeting followed by a complimentary meal and a program on the Old Man of the Mountain.

Monday will be the NAMSC Annual Meeting, along with a companion tour in the morning. In the afternoon we will take the cog railway to the top of Mt. Washington, with supper at the Mt. Washington Hotel.

Tuesday will be a day of tours. In the evening the IMSI board of directors will meet.

Wednesday will be meetings and technical sessions. The evening will include the banquet, awards and entertainment.

Registration packets will be sent around July 1st, if you would like a packet please:

Write: Mary Ellen Hutchinson, PO Box 240, Canterbury, NH 03224.

Fax: (603) 783-9953 Email: mapledigest@tds.net

PLEASE NOTE: Packets will be sent to all Directors and Alternates of the NAMSC and IMSI. All others should request a packet.

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