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GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



The Maple Research Fund was an important topic of discussion at the Council's annual meeting held in October in Amherst, Mass. Delegates representing our sixteen member states and provinces heard a presentation on a new fundraising initiative and subsequently voted to approve the new Maple Research Alliance Program.

Basically, the intent of this program is to increase funding for maple research by working with syrup container manufacturers or major container distributors who will collect, on behalf of the Research Fund, a voluntary penny contribution for every plastic, tin or glass container purchased by anyone who packages pure maple syrup.

These container manufacturers and distributors, or Alliance Partners. solicit volunteer contributions from maple syrup producers, syrup packers, associations and cooperatives at the time container sales are invoiced and forward contributions collected to the NAMSC Research Fund, Alliance Partners will also annually submit the names, town and state or province of those who have contributed to the Research Fund over the previous year (without amounts) for publication and recognition in the Maple Syrup Digest. Our Alliance Partners will be provided certain benefits and privileges for their continued assistance and will be duly recognized for their support and commitment to the NAMSC Research Fund. For those of you who purchase containers from non-alliance manufacturers we appreciate your continued penny per container contributions directly to the NAMSC Research Fund.

Dr. Gary Graham of Ohio State University has been appointed to chair the Maple Research Fund with committee members Joe Polak of Wisconsin as Treasurer; Dr. Eric Randall, Edinboro College of Pennsylvania & New York producer; Jacques Couture, Vermont producer; Dr. Randall Heiligmann, Ohio State University and Yvon Poitras of New Brunswick Maple Syrup Association.

As I begin my second year as president of the Council I'm very pleased to report that we have several other active committees working for the betterment of the Council's work in the maple industry. Each of our committee's charge for the coming year can be found in the objectives and strategies of our recently updated Strategic Plan.

Dave Hamilton of Indiana will chair the newly formed By-laws Committee who will review the Council by-laws and make recommendations at the next annual meeting.

The Executive Committee will monitor issues regarding the Asian Long Horn Beetle which continues to be a major threat to our industry. It is very important that all maple syrup producers actively educate the public and their customers to recognize signs of infestation of this destructive pest. Sightings should be reported immediately to the NAMSC or to a local forestry extension service.

Our new website is up thanks to

the generous contribution of time and resources of Karl Zander of Virginia (whose family's sugaring operation is in Wisconsin). The website has a great new look with many links to maple related sites. I encourage you to take а minute to visit www.northamericanmaple.org and if you have any comments on what we could further provide our members or visitors to the NAMSC website please let us know.

The Delegates passed a resolution to support the classification of maple syrup as a "specialty product" which can hopefully open new sources for maple research funding. A task force of Dr. Eric Randall (NY), Brian Chabot (NY) and Dr. Tim Perkins (VT) were appointed to follow up on this effort.

Maple Syrup Digest editor Roy Hutchinson of New Hampshire will chair the newly appointed Digest Advisory Committee whose charge is to examine and evaluate the format of the Digest and expand distribution and readership of our quarterly newsletter. Please feel free to contact Roy at mapledigest@tds.net with your comments and suggestions for the Digest.

We are all looking forward to another productive year and your input and involvement in the North American Maple Syrup Council is welcome in our effort to support the future of the maple industry through research and education.

Best wishes to all, for an enjoyable holiday season and a healthy and happy New Year!

Mike Girard

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A study published in 2008 by Center Acer, a Maple research institution in St-Norbert, Quebec

entitled "Leading to the formulation of new tapping norms for sustainable maple sugar bushes in both Quebec and Vermont during the 2008 season

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production. The researchers warm maple producers to be prudent in their tapping practices. They highlight that each maple season leaves a comparimented (deed wood) zone in the tree. They say that it can be risky to generate more dead wood surface than the tree itself can grow in return. This can explain partially why we have been observing a constant decline in maple syrup production yields in Quebec for the last couple of decades, despite the improvements of sap gathering equipment and methods. There could then be a direct link between over-tapping and sap yields.

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IMSI NEWS

The International Maple Syrup Institute held their quarterly Board of Directors meeting as well as their Annual Business Meeting as part of the Annual NAMSC and IMSI Meeting event in Amherst Massachusetts in late October 2008. These meetings were well attended. Some highlights from the meetings as well as other information are provided in this article.

IMSI AWARDS PRESENTED IN AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

IMSI administers two Annual Awards, the newly introduced Golden Maple Leaf Award and the Lynn Reynolds Memorial Leadership Award. These Awards were presented during the banquet at the Annual Meeting of NAMSC and IMSI in Amherst. Massachusetts.

The Golden Maple Leaf Award was introduced in 2008 to recognize individuals, groups and firms for their efforts in supporting and advancing the North American or International Maple Syrup Industry. IMSI's Board of Directors decided that the area of endeavour to be recognized with this Award woud be Education in 2008. University of Vermont Proctor Maple Research Centre and University of Vermont Maple Extension are the recipients of the Golden Maple Leaf Award in 2008.

The Lynn Reynolds Annual Memorial Leadership Award was introduced in 1999 to honour the memory of Lynn Reynolds. Lynn had provided outstanding service to the maple syrup industry over several decades. He had served both as

President of the International Maple Syrup Institute and President of the North American Maple Syrup Council. This Award recognizes the outstanding contribution of an individual to the advancement of the international maple syrup industry. David Marvin from Morrisville, Vermont is the recipient of the 2008 Lynn Reynolds Memorial Leadership Award.

IMSI COMMITTEE REPORTS Nominations Committee for 2009:

A committee comprised of Gary Ivens (Ontario), Serge Gauvin (Quebec) and Al Bolduc (Maine) prepared the proposed slate of officers for 2009. The slate was accepted, without amendment, at IMSI's Annual Meeting in Amherst, Mass. IMSI's Executive Officers for 2009 are:

Gary Gaudette, President (Vermont)

Richard Norman, Vice President (Connecticut)

Steve Selby, Treasurer (Vermont)
Jerry Kless (Past President)
(Quebec)

Dave Chapeskie, Executive Secretary (Ontario)

In 2009, twenty-five Directors representing large maple packers, smaller maple business enterprises, maple producer associations, equipment vendors and individuals will serve IMSI. Also, a number of government and research staff serve as advisors to the Board.

Maple Grades Committee (including Consumer Research):

It was reported in the last issue of the Maple Digest that IMSI was supporting a Consumer Research project designed to obtain consumer input regarding grades and descriptors for pure maple syrup. IMSI received the final consumer research report from Cintech Agroalimentre, a Quebecbased research firm in October 2008. Dr. John Garwood. Project Manager with Cintech presented the findings of this study during IMSI's Annual Business Meeting and Christine Chenard of Cintech presented the research findings (in French) at the Annual Assembly Meeting of the Federation of Quebec Maple Producers. Copies of the Research Report were available at both the IMSI Board and Annual Business Meeting in Amherst, Mass, Copies of the report can be obtained on request from the Executive Secretary of IMSI. Any comments or questions regarding the report, including implications for a standardized maple grading (including descriptors) svstem should provided to be Dave Chapeskie. Currently Dave serves both as IMSI's Executive Secretary and Chair of IMSI's Maple Grades Committee, Once IMSI's Directors as well as others have reviewed the report and provided comments as appropriate, IMSI's Maple Grades Committee will study the implications for standardized maple grades which were proposed earlier and recommend follow-up for consideration of IMSI's Board of Directors. IMSI wishes to thank the Federation of Quebec Maple Producers and Citadelle for their assistance with the consumer research study.

Review of Air Injection Technology:

In the last issue of the Maple Digest it was reported that IMSI had

established a Committee to review Air Injection Technology, including the findings from Research. For the purposes of this study Air Injection is defined as the forced introduction of quantities of ambient, filtered air through a series of perforated pipes into the boiling liquid in the front and/or backpan of a maple syrup evaporator. The Committee Chair. Dr. Patrizia Ramacieri from Centre Acer. reported that the group was awaiting regulatory information as well as a common research and development position paper on air injection being developed by Proctor Research Centre and Centre Acer. Once this information is available the committee, which has representatives for maple producers, maple packers and maple equipment vendors, will be making a recommendation to IMSI's Board of Directors regarding the use of Air Injection Technology to the Maple Syrup Committee.

IMSI Maple Industry Panel:

IMSI arranged for a Maple Industry Panel Discussion during their Annual Business meeting in Amherst. The panelists were Charles-Felix Ross. General Manager, Federation of Quebec Maple Producers and Arnold Coombs. Marketing Manager. Bascom Maple Farms. Panelists commented on international market conditions following the 2008 maple production season, provided insights into possible market conditions in 2009 for differing crop scenarios (bumper, average or poor) and indicated factors necessary to maintain a thriving maple industry well into the future. Factors mentioned as important to maintaining a strong maple

industry included stability in price and supply of syrup, effective promotion and marketing, production of high quality syrup, research, including product innovation and cooperation among maple stakeholders at the international level.

Maple Can Alert:

In October of 2008, the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets issued an Advisory Alert regarding certain chemicals confirmed to be present in trace amounts in certain tin cans distributed in 2008. The Agency advised that the trace amount of chemicals found did not constitute any risk to human health. IMSI received timely notification of the Maple Can Alert from Henry Marckres. Chief. Consumer Assurance with the Agency in Vermont. Official information received from the Agency, including the facts associated with the Alert, was shared with IMSI members to help raise awareness regarding the Alert. IMSI will maintain close contact with appropriate representatives from Vermont's Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to stay abreast of the latest information regarding the alert . IMSI will also strive to keep members of the Institute informed until this issue is resolved. For further information regarding the Maple Can Alert and follow-up advisories, contact Henry Marckres at 802-828-2436 or Dr. Kristen Haas at 802-828-2426. Any inquires from the press regarding the Maple Can Alert should be referred to Ms. Kelly Loftus at 802-828-3829.

Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALHB):

IMSI's Board of Directors is very concerned regarding the threat that

ALHB poses to the commercial maple syrup industry in Canada and the United States. This threat was further emphasized with the recent discovery(August 2008) of the pest in the area of Worcester, Mass. At the recent IMSI meetings in Amherst, Mass., IMSI's Board of Directors agreed that IMSI would work cooperatively with the North American Maple Syrup Council to formulate an industry response to this very serious threat. It recognized that the maple industry at all levels has a role in further enhancing public awareness efforts regarding this pest as well as providing appropriate input to government regarding ongoing and future planning and control efforts.

IMSI Website Update:

Dave Chapeskie worked with the webmaster to update IMSI's website. Comments regarding the site and suggestions to improve it further should be provided to Dave.

IMSI Next Board of Directors Meeting:

IMSI's next Board of Directors meeting will be held in Quebec on Monday, February 2, 2009. The location of this meeting had not been confirmed when this article was submitted to the Maple Digest.

Dave Chapeskie
Executive Secretary, IMSI
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2009 Ohio Maple Days

By Dr. Gary Graham, Ohio State University Extension

Ohio would like to invite you to its Ohio Maple Days workshops to be held January 29th to the 31st. With the 2009 season only a few months away and the current high demand for syrup along with the higher energy costs has many looking for ways to produce more syrup with less energy. Come to one of this years three Ohio Maple Days programs and get prepared for the season by learning the latest tools and tricks to help. Topics this year include proper sizing and operation of a Reverse Osmosis (RO) system. With the cost of fuel oil many are interested in adding or have added an RO in the last few years. come learn from Mr. Brian Stowe what he has experienced running the RO's at the Proctor Maple Research Center. Brian will cover size unit needed and operating of the unit to get the most out of your investment and your sap. Brian will also cover recommendations for plate filter press operation. Filter presses are a great tool to make your syrup sparkle with outstanding clarity. Other topics to be delivered by the OSU Extensions maple team of Dr. Randy Heiligmann, Dr. Garv Graham, and Mr. Les Ober will include everything from energy efficiency, battling bacteria and mold in the sugarhouse, to budgeting issues with upgrades, and much much more. Our traditional Maple Nuggets will also be included with all the latest items, issues, tools and time savers in the maple industry. As always we are excited to invite all

equipment dealers to each program location to show the latest in equipment and to service your maple equipment needs.

The 2009 programs will be held Thursday January 29th at Lutheran Memorial Camp in Morrow County; Friday January 30th at the Kidron Livestock Auction Spurnger Building, in Wayne County; and Saturday January 31st at Joe's Window Shop in Geauga County. Flyers with registration information and more details will be mailed out in December. If you have not been receiving a mailed flyer in past years contact Gary or Ms. Lisa Troyer, to get on the mailing list: Dr. Gary Graham, 1680 Madison Ave., Wooster, Ohio 44691, or call 330-263-3799. (Extension mail lists are not distributed to others and only used for the intended mailings).



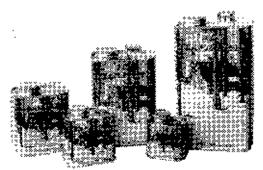
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2009 New York Calendar of Upcoming Schools and Workshops

JANUARY 2 - Maple School for Beginners and Back Yarders, Warren County. Contact: Laurel R. Gailor, Natural Resource Educator, Irg6@cornell.edu, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Warren County, 377 Schroon River Road, Warrensburg, NY 12885, Phone: 518-623-3291, 518-668-4881.

JANUARY 3 - Warren Washington County Maple School, Contact: Laurel R. Gailor, Natural Resource Educator, Irg6@comell.edu, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Warren County, 377 Schroon River Road, Warrensburg, NY 12885, Phone: 518-623-3291, 518-668-4881.

JANUARY 9-10 - New York State Maple Conference, Verona NY, Contact: Keith Schiebel kschiebel@vvsschools.org or go to cornellmaple.com.

JANUARY 17 - Western NY Maple School, Contact: Lutie Batt, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County, 401 North Main Street, Warsaw, NY 14569, Phone: 585-786-2251.

JANUARY 24 - Lewis County Maple School, Contact: Michele Ledoux, Cornell Cooperative Extension Lewis County, 5274 Outer Stowe Street, P.O. Box 72, Lowville, New York 13367, Phone: 315-376-5270.

JANUARY 28 - Ontario County Maple Beginners Workshop, Contact: Russell Welser, Cornell Cooperative Extension Ontario County, 480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424, Phone: 585-394-3977, Fax: 585-394-0377, e-mail: rw43@comell.edu

JANUARY 30 - Clinton County Maple School. Contact: Mike Farrell, 157 Bear Cub Lane, Lake Placid, NY 12946, Phone: 518-523-9337, e-mail: mlf36@cornell.edu.

JANUARY 31 - Maple Expo- St. Lawrence County, Contact: Steve VanderMark, Cornell Cooperative Extension, 1894 State Highway 68, Canton, NY 13617-1477, sfvl@cornell.edu, Phone: 315-379-9192.

FEBRUARY 21 - Oswego County Maple School, Contact: JJ Schell, jjs69@cornell.edu,Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oswego County, 3288 Main St., Mexico, NY 13114-3499. Phone: 315-963-7286.

FEBRUARY 28 - Tioga County Beginner Maple School at Hamley's Maple, 1242 Oak Hill Rd, Barton, NY. Contact: Contact: Brett Chedzoy, Cornell Cooperative Extension - Schuyler County, Senior Resource Educator, bjc226@cornell.edu, office: 607-535-7161, cell: 607-742-3657.

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2008 North American Maple Syrup Council 49th Annual Meeting and Convention October 24-27, 2008 Amherst, Massachusetts

The 49th annual meeting of the North American Maple Syrup Council (NAMWSC) and the 34th annual Meeting of the International Maple Syrup Institute (IMSI) was hosted by the Massachusetts Maple Producers Association at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts.

The conference began Friday, October 24, with planning sessions held by extension maple specialists, researchers, NAMSC delegates and alternates, IMSI directors and the NAMSC research committee.

The NAMSC General Business meeting began Saturday, October 25, 9:00 am when Tom McCrumm, Coordinator MMPA, Jim Desjardins, President MMPA, and Michael Girard, President NAMSC welcomed delegates, alternates and participants to the conference.

Michael Girard called the meeting to order. Joe Polak, secretary, read the roll call of state and provincial delegates. The delegates introduced their alternate.

Delegates (D) and alternates (A) present included: Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut; Ron Wenzel (D), Brian Atwood (A) Indiana Maple Syrup producers Association; Dave Hamilton (D), Garry Sink (A) Maine Maple Producers Association; Alfred Buldoc (D) Massachusetts Maple Producers Association, Inc; Tom McCrumm (D), Michael Girard, NAMSC Pres (A) Michigan Maple Syrup Association; Ron Thomas (D), Jean Maday (A) Minnesota Maple Producers Association, Inc; Terry Stanley (D), Ralph Fideldy (A) New Brunswick Maple Syrup Association, Inc; David Briggs (D), Michael Salmon (A) New Hampshire Maple Producers Association; Hank Peterson, (D) Bill Eva (A) New York State Maple Producers Association; Dr. Eric Randall (D) Maple Producers Association of Nova Scotia; Avard Bentley (D), Kevin McCormick (A) Ohio Maple Producers Association; Galen Smith (D), Roger Gortner (A) Ontario Maple Syrup Association Bill Robinson (D) Pennsylvania Maple Syrup Producers Council; Wayne Clark (D) Maple Syrup Producers Cooperative of Quebec (Cooperative de Producteurs de Sirop D'erable du Quebec); Cecile Brassard Pichette (D), Rene Ares (A) Vermont Sugar Makers Association; Rick Marsh, NAMSC Vice President (D), Dave Mance, Jr. (A) Wisconsin Maple Syrup producers Association, Inc; Joe Polak, NAMSC Secretary/Treasurer (D).

All member states and provinces were present.

Minutes of the 48th annual meeting held at Akron, Ohio were presented and approved.

Motion: Approve the minutes as written of the 48th annual meeting.

Proposed by: Eric Randall Seconded by: Ron Thomas

Action: Passed

The treasurer's report of the general fund was presented by Joe Polak. Funds in the checking account August 31, 2008 are \$81,254.28. Cash receipts are \$5,421.65 and disbursements are \$4,607.77. All member states and provinces have paid their dues as of the date of the conference. Total funds in Certificates of Deposit are \$71,910.32.

Motion: Approve the treasurer's report subject to audit.

Proposed by: Dave Hamilton Seconded by: Avard Bentley

Action: Passed

Roy Hutchinson, editor, presented the report for the Maple Digest. The financial report shows cash on hand August 31, 2008, \$12,519.27. Cash receipts equaled \$24,681.80 and disbursements were \$24,663.00.

Motion: Approve Maple Digest report subject to audit.

Proposed by: Avard Bentley **Seconded by:** Bill Robinson

Action: Passed

Roy Hutchinson will chair an advisory committee whose charge is to evaluate the format of the Maple Digest and expand distribution and readership.

Russ Davenport gave a report of the activities of the American Maple Museum in Croghan, NY. One room is dedicated to Bob Lamb and his maple and forestry innovations. The third Saturday in May, 2009 will be the official opening of the museum for the 2009 season. Candidates inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2008 were Sam Cutting and Bill Brown. James Bochy and Fred Winch, members of the Hall of Fame, died in 2008. A fund raising drive is ongoing to make the three story museum handicap accessible.

Dr. Randall Heiligmann reported 5000 copies of the Maple Manual, soft cover, are sold out and are being reprinted. The second edition will have a spiral binding that will allow the book to lay flat when open. Hard cover copies are still available.

Joe Polak, treasurer Research Fund, reported \$60,706.03 in the fund. No expenses in 2008.

Motion: To approve the financial report subject to audit.

Proposed: Cecile Brassart Pichette

Seconded: Rick Marsh

Action: Passed

Dr. Eric Randall, chairman of the Research Committee, reported sending approximately 100 requests for research proposals. The committee received four with a total requested amount of \$118,477.00. The RFP's requested proposals for research in any of three areas of concern: 1. Alternative energy 2.

Packaging and marketing maple 3.Efficiency of production. The four requests for funding are: 1. Expanding Maple Sugar Production Through Accessing Public and Private Forests, Cornell University, Chabot/Farrell. 2. Maximizing Vacuum Transfer and Sap Yields in Maple Tubing Operations: Evaluation of a New Method to Increase Production, University of Vermont Proctor Research Center, Perkins/Wilmot/Stowe. 3. Evaluation of Maple Tubing Management Alternatives to Accomplish Tap Hole Sanitation for Increased Yield, Cornell University, Smallidge. 4. Wood Staining Impacts from Non-removal of Taps at Season's End, Ohio State University/Vermont, Proctor Research Center, Graham/Perkins/Stowe.

Michael Girard, president, on behalf of the Research Fund Committee presented the Maple Research Alliance Program. The intent of the program is to increase funding for maple research by working with syrup container manufacturers or major container distributors who will collect a voluntary penny contribution for every plastic, tin or glass container purchased by anyone who packages pure maple syrup. Container manufacturers and distributors (or Alliance Partners), will solicit volunteer contributions from maple syrup producers, syrup packers, associations and cooperatives at the time container sales are invoiced and forward contributions collected to the NAMSC Research Fund. Alliance Partners will annually submit the names of those who contribute (without amounts) for recognition in the Maple Digest. Those who purchase containers from non-alliance manufacturers can contribute their penny per container contributions directly to the NAMSC Research Fund.

Motion: Approve the Maple Research Alliance Program as presented.

Proposed by: Ron Wenzel Seconded by: Dave Hamilton

Action: Passed

Dave Hamilton, chairman Membership Committee, recommended:

- 1. The dues structure shall remain the same.
- 2. Life members shall be selected with the approval of 2/3 of the Council. Individuals nominated must demonstrate a continued commitment to the NASMSC and the maple industry. Nominations are to be considered annually.
- 3. Associate members shall be selected for a three year term with the approval of 2/3 of the Council. Associate members shall be nonvoting members, but may serve on committees. Selection shall be based on continued support of NASMSC and the maple industry. The nominating committee shall present a list annually to the Council. Candidates should come from the following groups: maple equipment dealers or manufacturers, syrup co-ops and syrup packers, extension or forestry service representatives, maple research individuals, individuals from industry related organizations, and maple producers.
 - 4. The bylaws be changed to accommodate these recommendations. Joe Polak, chairman Convention Planning Committee, reported the results

of survey. Attendees of previous conventions were asked to give preferences regarding the format of the conventions.

Webmaster, Karl Zander, reported a newly developed and expanded website is in place. www.northamericanmaple.org is the address. The site does not duplicate state and provincial association sites but does link to those sites. It will have the technical presentations, workshops and crop reports from this convention. A request was made for comments on what we can provide members and visitors to the NAMSC website and help translating into French. Contact Karl at: webmaster@northamericanmaple.org.

President, Michael Girard, updated the Strategic Plan based on input from the planning session held in Akron, OH in 2007. Many of the items on the original plan have been completed and removed. Others are still in progress and some new were added.

Motion: We support the updated Strategic Plan.

Proposed by: Rick Marsh Seconded by: Terry Stanley

Action: Passed

Tim Wilmot, chairman Newsletter Committee, contacted the editors of various member associations. He displayed newsletters from the associations. He suggested a central link for the newsletters on the website.



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Michael Girard reported on a formalized nomination and Award criteria form for the NAMSC Recognition Awards. Criteria information and forms are now available from the Secretary.

Audit committee for 2008 is Ron Wenzel, chairman, Avard Bentley, and Hank Peterson.

A Nominating committee was appointed that included: Past President, Tom McCrumm, Bill Robinson and Ron Thomas.

Dr. Tim Perkins, University of Vermont, Proctor Research Center, reported on the Specialty Crop Program. Currently maple syrup is not recognized by the USDA as a Specialty Crop. Tim Perkins request NAMSC to petition USDA to be listed as Specialty Crop. The executive committee agreed to draft a letter and send to the delegates to endorse.

Motion: The North American Maple Syrup Council does endorse and promote the addition of maple syrup and all value added maple products to the USDA/CSRESS Specialty Crops List to allow for consideration/inclusion under the competitive and noncompetitive nonformula grant program.

Proposed by: Eric Randall Seconded by: Wayne Clark

Action: Passed

A task force of Dr. Eric Randall, Brian Chabot, and Dr. Tim Perkins was appointed to follow up on Specialty Crop effort.

Tom McCrumm, past president, reported on the Asian Longhorned Beetle. The Beetle was found in Worster Massachusetts this summer. The total infestation is not known at this time. Sixty-two square miles are quarantined. It is in an urban/suburban setting. Street by street inspections are in progress. Weekly training sessions are being held to teach volunteers how to spot ALB infestations.

Henry Marckres, Chief, Consumer Protection Consumer Assurance of Vermont reported on the New England Container issue. The rectangular and cabin style tins sold by this company in 2008 have a strong odor and should not be used. The round tins are not impacted. Vermont Department of Agriculture has shared this information with the FDA. New England Container Company has agreed to contact all purchasers of these containers in 2008. (There is more information on this issue on the NAMSC website).

Motion: We shall adjourn until Sunday 1:00pm.

Proposed by: Rick Marsh

Seconded by: Cecile Brassart Pichette

Action: Passed

The General Business meeting reconvened Sunday, October 26, 1:00pm. Gary Keogh reopened the meeting with a report of New England Agricultural Statistics Service. Production in the US is up 30%. Vermont produced 500,000

gallons, an increase of 11%; New York made 322,000 gallons, an increase of 7%; Maine evaporated 215,000 gallons, and decrease of 2%. Wisconsin produced 73% more than 2007 and set 15% more taps. Ohio made the most since 1959. Michigam matched 1964. Pennsylvania tied with 1992. The report shows a steady increase of taps since 2001. (There is more information about this on the NAMSC website).

Alicia Parsons Lushington presented the plan for the Nova Scotia Maple Syrup Crop Insurance Program. The program offers \$28 million in coverage for agricultural crops, with approximately \$2 million in claims per year.

Eric Randall, chairman Research Fund Committee, recommended to the Council funding of \$24,851.00 for Maximizing Vacuum Transfer and Sap Yields in Maple Tubing Operations: Evaluation of a New Method to Increase Production, University of Vermont-Proctor Research Center and \$4,000.00 for Evaluation of Maple Tubing Management alternatives to Accomplish Tap Hole Sanitation for Increased Yield, Cornell University.

Motion: We shall fund recommended research proposals.

Proposed by: Ron Wenzel Seconded by: Alfred Bolduc

Action: Passed

Motion: We endorse the new Maple Research Alliance Program. Program will include a list of duties of the chairman and duties of committee members.

Proposed by: Alfred Bolduc Seconded by: Ron Wenzel

Action: Passed

Dr. Gary Graham reported 18 attendees at Maple Specialists meeting. 16 different universities were represented. Brian Chabot, professor at Cornel University, Ithaca, New York is retiring.

Tom McCrumm, past president, and executive committee will continue to monitor the Asian Longhorned Beetle infestation. The committee with the IMSI will send a letter of support for continued government funding for ALB eradication.

Ron Wenzel reported the audit committee found the treasurer's reports and the Digest financial reports are in order.

Motion: Accept the audit committee report.

Proposed by: Eric Randall Seconded by: Rick Marsh

Action: Passed

Tom McCrumm, chair nominating committee, recommended Michael Girard, President, Rick Marsh, Vice President, Joe Polak, Secretary/Treasurer. With no more nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Motion: Elect the slate of officers as presented.

Proposed by: Dave Hamilton Seconded by: Galen Smith

Action: Passed

Motion: Norman Anderson, Wisconsin, be added to the Life Member List.

Proposed by: Tom McCrumm Seconded by: Joe Polak

Action: Passed

Motion: Add to the Associate Members: Karl Zander, Webmaster, VA; Yvon Poitras, General Manager, New Brunswick Maple Syrup Association; Gary Keogh, New England Agricultural Statistics Service; Larry Haigh, Dealer, MI; Dr. Natalie Martin, Chemist, Center ACER, QC; Dr. Abby van den Berg, Research Technician, Proctor Research Center, VT; Tim Wilmot, UVM Extension Maple Specialist, Proctor Research Center, VT; Benoit Pepin, Manufacturer D&G, VT; Matt Williams, Manufacturer Lapierre USA, VT. Remove from the Associate members: Anne Ruff, INFOR, NB; Brent Brown, Packer, ON.

Proposed by: Tom McCrumm Seconded by: Eric Randall

Action: Passed

Regarding the New England Container issue:

Motion: Recognize and refer all New England Container inquiries to Ms. Kelly Loftus, 802-828-3829. (This information will be posted on the NAMSC website).

Proposed by: Rick Marsh Seconded by: Alfred Bolduc

Action: Passed

Aubrey Davis submitted his resignation from the Research Committee. Eric Randall resigned as the chairman of the Research Committee. Eric has agreed to continue on the Research Committee. Both were thanked for their work in their roles on the Research Committee.

Committee appointments include:

Research Fund Committee: Dr. Gary Graham, chairman, Jacque Couture, Dr. Eric Randall, Yvon Poitras, Dr. Randall Heiligmann, Joe Polak, treasurer. Strategic Planning Committee: Michael Girard, chairman, David Hamilton, Roy Hutchinson, Luc Lussier, Rick Marsh, Tom McCrumm, Cecile Brassard Pichette, Joe Polak, Dr. Gary Graham. Maple Hall of Fame Committee: Russ Davenport, chairman, Avard Bentley, Gary Gaudette, Gordon Gowen, Roy Hutchinson, Richard Norman, Paul Richards, Ron Shaw, Bob Smith. Bylaws Revision Committee: Dave Hamilton, chairman, Luc Lussier, Bill Robinson, Ron Wenzel, Ron Thomas, Executive Committee (Michael Girard,

Rick Marsh, Joe Polak, Tom McCrumm). Convention Planning Committee: Joe Polak, chairman, Michael Girard, Gretchen Grape, Rick Marsh, Tom McCrumm, Cecile Brassard Pichette. Maple Digest Advisory Committee: Roy Hutchinson, chairman, Alfred Bolduc, Bill Eva, Luc Lussier, Bill Robinson, Karl Zander. Website Committee: Karl Zander, webmaster, Tom McCrumm, Luc Lussier, Newsletter Committee: Tim Wilmot, Coordinator: Michael Girard.

Motion: Accept committee appointments.

Proposed by: Ron Wenzel Seconded by: Eric Randall

Action: Passed

Alfred Bolduc, ME, invited the NAMSC to the 50th Annual Conference at Bar Harbor, Maine, October 22 - 26, 2009.

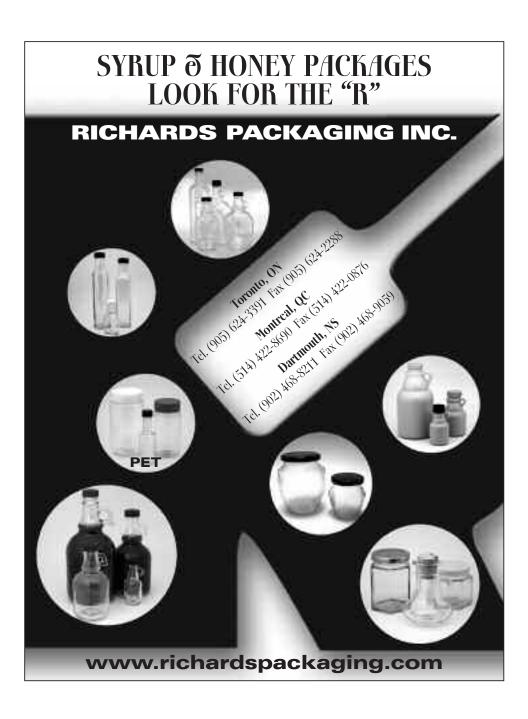
Motion: Adjourn.

Proposed by: Avard Bentley **Seconded by:** Dave Hamilton

Action: Passed

Respectfully submitted, Joe Polak, Secretary





2008 NAMSC Maple Syrup and Confections Contest

By: Dr. Gary Graham, Ohio State University Extension

Entries from across the maple production region arrived in person and by mail this year to be judged for the best of the best at the 2008 NAMSC/IMSI conference held in Amherst, Massachusetts, October 24-27. This is the second year it has been acceptable to enter the contest without attending the conference. Many producers are taking advantage of this and mailed in samples or sent them with a conference attendee. A total of 70 entries were part of this years contest. These entries represented 34 sugar bushes from 11 states. In all there were six (6) candy entries, seven (7) cream entries, and 57 syrup entries. The syrup entries were in the following three (3) class-21-light amber; 22-medium es: amber; and 14-dark amber. Judges this year were the following: Mr. Henry Marckres, Vermont Agency of Agriculture; Mr. David Briggs, Producer from New Brunswick; Mr. Producer Rob Leab. Massachusetts; Ms. Kathy Hopkins, University of Maine Extension; and myself (Dr. Gary Graham, Ohio State University Extension).

With syrup being at such a high demand and short supply we were pleased to have the amount of entries for the contest. When tasting so many samples the good ones just jump out at you and in the end you have to pick the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners and those who would receive an excep-

tional ribbon for a quality syrup or confection. I want to thank the judges for all their hard work and congratulate all the entries for producing a good Pure Maple Syrup product.

The winners in the five categories were as follows:

Best of Show for Syrups went to Green's Sugarhouse - Poultney, VT, for their Light Amber entry.

Light Amber Syrup

1st - Green's Sugarhouse Poultney, VT

2nd - Stone Cold Maple - Middlefield, OH

3rd - Merrifield Farms - Gorham, ME

Medium Amber Syrup

1st - Green's Sugarhouse Poultney, VT

2nd - Maple Hollow - Merrill, WI

3rd - Haigh's Maple Syrup - Bellevue, MI

Dark Amber Syrup

1st - Bonhomie Acres - Fredericktown, OH

2nd - Merrifield Farms - Gorham, ME

3rd - The Maple Guys Lyndeborough, NH

Maple Candy

1st - Boyden Brothers Maple - Conway, MA

2nd - Dufresne's Sugarhouse - Rose City, MI

3rd - Haigh's Maple Syrup - Bellevue, MI

Maple Cream

1st - Haigh's Maple Syrup - Bellevue. MI

2nd - Gingrich Brothers - Chardon, OH

3rd - Grandpa's Stuff Maple Cream - Pawlet, VT

Contributions to the NORTH AMERICAN MAPLE SYRUP COUNCIL RESEARCH FUND Contributions from 9/1/07 to 8/31/08

The North American Maple Syrup Council would like to extend their thanks to those who have contributed to the NAMSC - Research Fund either individually or through the "PENNY PER CONTAINER" program from September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008.

Contributions can be made through your container manufacturer or supplier or sent directly to the North American Maple Syrup - Research Fund in care of Joe Polak, Treasurer, W1887 Robinson Dr., Merrill, WI 54452, Phone: 713-536-7251, Email:maplehollowsyrup@verizon.net. Please make checks payable to: NAMSC - RESEARCH FUND.

Adirondack Container Co., Castorland, NY Adirondack Gold Maple Farm, Athol, NY Alden Dana, Harland, VT Arlow Sugar House, Granby, CT Atkins Fruit Bowl, Amherst, MA Atwoods Sugar Shack, New Hartford, CT Bailey's Maple Syrup, Storrs, CT Bascom's Sugar House, Alstead, NH Bean Hill Farm, Northfield, NH Beckwith Maples, Rome, PA Bennington Microtechnology, Bennington, VT Black Creek Farms, Croghan, NY Black Sheep Sugarhouse, Orleans, VT Blue Heron Farm, Charlemont, MA Bluff Gardens, Inc., Harbor Springs, MI Bootleg Bar B Q Co., Inc., Mt Washington, KY Boyden Valley Farm & Wine, Cambridge, VT Bradley-Mann Maple Syrup, Gillett, PA Bradway Sugarhouse, Stafford Spring, CT Bragg Farm, East Montpelier, VT Brannon's West View Maple, Fairfield, VT Breakneck Ridge Farm, Blanchard Twp, ME Brennerman's Maple Syrup, Salisbury, PA Broadview Farm Maple, Lyndonville, VT

Brookledge Sugarhouse, Whately, MA

Brown Excavating, Goffstown, NH

Brown's Hardware, Wattsburg, PA Bryan lanson, Coudersport, PA Burleigh Land Limited, Pittsburg, PA Burman Maple Products, Thompson, PA Burton Chamber of Commerce, Burton, OH Button's Maple Products, East Freetown, NY Catskill Mountain Maple, Delancey, NY Cavender Sugarhouse, Hebron, CT Cedarville Maple Syrup Co. Syracuse, NY Charles Drake, Windsor, CT Charles Wagner, Crivitz, WI Charlie's Sugarhouse, Greene, RI Clute's Maple Products, Naples, NY CNY Maple Festival, Marathon, NY Coles Turnpike Tree Farm, Whitney Point, NY Cornell University, Ithaca, NY Corse Farm, Whitingham, VT Countryside Hardware, De Ruyter, NY D & D Sugarwoods Farm, Glover, VT Dale Young, East Granby, CT David Benton, Willington, CT Dix Family Sugarhouse, Jacksonville, VT Donald Dodd, Niles, MI Dudley Harrison Farm, North Branford, CT Dutton's Sugar House, Washington, CT Emerson's Dairy Farm, Alfred Station, NY Endless MT Cabin, Rome, PA Erlsten Bros Maple Products, Mt Gilead, OH Ferguson's Maple Farm, Bridgepor, WV Fideldy's, Cohasset, MN Filiciotto's Hilltop Farm, Bath, NH Fitch Pharm Farm, Ashland, OH Flaherty's Maple Products, Cooksburg, PA Frost Valley YMCA, Claryville, NY Frosty Maple Products, Southampton, NS Funk Grove Maple, Shirley, IL Gadapee Family Sugarhouse, Danville, VT Geauga Park District, Chardon, OH Gillespie, Waterville, VT GoodRich's Sugar House, Cabot, VT Grav America Corp. Davton. OH Green MT Sugar House, Ludlow, VT Greens' Sugarhouse, Poultney, VT Hamley's Maple Farm, Barton, NY Hardwick Sugar Shack, Hardwick, MA Hidden Pond Sugar House, Simsbury, CT Holdridge, Alden, Ledyard, CT Houston's Sugarhouse, Cabot, VT Hurst Farm, Andover, CT Indiana Maple Syrup Assoc., Oterbein, IN Innisfree Kennels, Chateaugay, NY Irish Acres Farm, Bolton, CT Ivan R Puffenbarger, Blue Grass, VA James Woodrow, Hermon, NY

Jesse Remington Schoo, Candia, NH Joe Tomanek, Smithville Flats, NY Johnson's Pure Maple Syrup, Orange, MA Juniata College, Huntington, PA Justus Asthalter Maple Syrup, Parksville, NY KE Farm and Sugarhouse, Sturbridge, MA Karabin Farms, Southington, CT Keim's Maple Supply, Homerville, OH Ken's Maple Products, Alden, NY Kennedy Farms, Omemee, ON Kickapoo Gold LL, Westby, WI Kinney Maple Supplies, Knox, ME Komrowski Maple, Memphis, NY Lansing Burdick, Stephentown, NY Leader Evaporator Co, Inc., Swanton, VT Leonard's Sugar House, N. Canton, CT Little Stream Sugarworks, West Lebanon, NH Loch's Maple Syrup, Springville, PA Longview Forest Products, Hancock, NH LSP Promotions, New London, NH Lucerne Maple Products, East Holden, ME Malcolm MacKenzie, Naples, NY Mance's Tree Farm, Shaftsbury, VT Maple Acres, Kewadin, VT Maple Grove Farms, Inc., Saint Johnsbury, VT Maple Hill Farms, Cobleskill, NY Maple Syrup Prod. Assoc. of Connecticut, Guilford, CT Maple Syrup Supplies, Potterville, MI Marquardt Tree Farm, Tigerton, WI Mass. Maple Producers, Plainfield, MA McKinnon Brother's Sugar, Clarksville, NH McLaughlin Vineyards, Sandy Hook, CT Mead's Maple Syrup, Canaan, CT Merck Forest & Farmland, Rupert, VT Milroy Farms, Salisbury, PA Minnestaglia, McGrego, MN Moonlight Maple Co., Mt Vernon, ME Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks, Montpelier, VT Muscle in Your Arm Farm, Etna, NH Myold Farm, Winchester, NH Native Harvest, Callaway, MN New Milford Youth Agency, New Milford, CT Niese's Pure Maple Syrup, Putnam, NY Norman's Sugar House, Woodstock, CT Norris Sugarworks, Starksboro, VT North Hadley Sugar Shack, Hadley, MA Northern Wisconsin Maid, Park Falls, WI Northfield MT Herman, Gill, MA Northwest Penn Maple, Corry, PA Northwestern Regional HS, Winsted, CT New York State Maple Prod. Assn., Inc.,

Oak Lodge, Stahlstown, PA Oliver Scranton, Guilford, CT PA Hicks & Sons, Inc., Colebrook, NH Passardi Maple Products, Willington, CT Paul Doerfler, West Newbury, CT Paul M. Hughes, Bloomfield, CT Paul Smiths College, Paul Smiths, NY Peaceful Valley Maple Farm, Johnstown, NY Pearl & Sons, Loudon, NH Peter Casey, Columbia, CT Peter Lamb, Canton Center, CT Peter Rotherberg, Northford, CT Pick & Shovel, Newport, VT Pomeroy Sugarhouse, Westfield, MA Pond Hill Farm, Wallingford, CT Potter-Tioga Maple Products, Wellsboro, PA RG White & Son, Rindge, NH RMG Family Sugar Bush, Rudyard, MI Ragland Farm, Southbury, CT Raspberry Patch Farm, Ashfield, MA Rathbun's Maple Sugahouse, Whitehall, NY Red Bucket Sugar Shack, Worthington, MA Remo Pizzagall, Charlotte, VT Remsburger Maple Farm, Pleasant Valley, NY Rich Gallacher, Westbrook, CT Richard's Maple Products, Chardon, OH River's Edge Sugarhouse, Ashford, CT Rivermede Farm Market, Keene Valley, NY Robinson Maple Products, Auburn, ON Rock House Maple, Easton, CT Rocky Ridge Orchards, Danby, VT Roger Sage, Warsaw, NY Russell Maple Farm, Rome, PA Schoonmaker Brother & Sons, Torrington, CT Share Harvest, LLC, Cambridge, MA Smith's Maple Products, Skowhegan, ME Somerset County Maple Products, Salisbury, PA South Meadow Farm, Lake Placid, NY Southface Farm, Ashfield, MA Sprague's Maple Farm's, Portville, NY Spring Farm, Shelburne Falls, MA Spruceton Valley Farm, Kingston, NY Stafford Hollow Sugar Shack, Staffard Spring, CT Stamford Museum and Nature, Stamford, CT Steven Broderick, Eastford, Ct Steven Osborn, Boscawen, NH Strawberry Hill Farms, Skowhegan, ME Stroup's Pure Maple Syrup, Kane, PA Sugar Tree County Store, McDowell, VA Sugar Tree Farm, LLC, Guilford, CT Sugarbush Farm, Woodstock, VT Sugarloaf Maple Products, New Portland, ME Sugarman of Vermont, Hardwick, VT

Memphis, NY

Sullivan's Sugar House, Bridgewater, CT Sunnyside Maple, Gilmanton, NH Sweet Retreat, Northfield, VT Sweet Wind Farm, East Hartland, CT Sweetridge Maple Shoppe, Forestville, NY Taconic Outdoor Education, Cold Spring, NY Tamarack Farm, Canterbury, NH Terry Bessett, Cloquet, MN The Fresh Air Fund, Fishkill, NY The Sugar Shack, Millinocket, ME The University of Vermont, Underhill Center, VT The Warren Farm and Sugarhouse. N. Brookfield, MA Thomas Bell Lumber, Riverton, CT Trudell Family Farm, E. Fairfield, VT

Vallee Farm, St. Albans, VT

Vandana Farms, Tolland, CT Vande Bunte Maple, Hudsonville, MI Vermont Maple Outlet, Jeffersonville, Vt Warrups Farm, West Redding, CT Welch's, Wyoming, NY West Hill Sugarhouse. New Hartford. Ct Wettermann Farm, Guilford, CT Wheeler Farm, Wilmington, VT Wildwood Farms, Gonvick, MN William Hiller, Jr., Winsted, CT William Moore, Freedom, NY Williams Farm, Inc., Deerfield, MA Windridge Farms, LLC, Jeffersonville, VT Wocott Maple Equipment, Dale, NY Wood Homestead Maple, East Hampton, CT Young Street Maple, East Hampton, CT

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CROP REPORTS

Editor's note: Each year at the annual meeting each state and province provide crop reports for that year. We will publish their findings each year in the Digest, dedicating as few or many pages as space dictates.

CONNECTICUT

Our production increased to a record 15,000 gallons. The days were perfect and the weather also contributed to this great year. Many of us who use wood ran out of said same but many of us have stored more for this year. Can we expect a repeat? Only time will tell but if we don't use it all, it won't go bad. Our quality did not falter because of the large amount of sap. Sugar content remained high and a lot of light syrup was made.

We have two meetings a year. The first is in November. This is our annual meeting. Guest speakers included Gary Keough, Director of N.E. Field Office USDA, gave the 2007 statistics that showed Connecticut production about one percent of U.S. total production. Our next guest speaker was Jaime Smith of Connecticut Department of Agriculture. She spoke of grant programs available such as the Joint Venture Program, and the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant. The purpose of this grant is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops, maple being one of them.

Our second meeting is in January. We filled out the forms for the Block Grant we were presented with a \$9,000 check. This award covers two years to complete, we have received more than half because of our programs that we applied for. You might want to look into this for your association. Chris Russo from Hillside Plastics gave a brief instructional talk on how to fill their new jugs. "Just flip momentarily immediately after capping, no need to

balance them on their cap or resting on their side."

Kathy Hopkins from the University of Maine was our last speaker and her presentation was a very short course on grading of maple syrup. She talked about the ways to grade - density, color, clarity and flavor.

The MSPAC annually participates at the State Capitols "Connecticut Agricultural Day" which is held in March in Hartford. Member sugarmakers assist in staffing the booth and this year's booth displayed Brian Atwood's detailed scale model of his sugarhouse. In addition, the association is well represented at many local fairs and community events, throughout the State, spring through fall.

We are pleased to have had another successful year in Connecticut through the help and countless hours of our volunteers, Board of Directors and the many committees of the MSPAC.

Connecticut extends its thanks and appreciation to Massachusetts for hosting this year's Council meeting!

INDIANA

Several producers in the central and southern portions of Indiana tapped the last week in January or the first week of February. Several small runs occurred followed by an extended cold spell, weekly snow falls and freezing rain. Some producers in the central region saw extensive damage due to the ice storm. Northern producers did not get a good run of sap until the first of March.

For most producers in the central and northern regions the season lasted until the end of March. Some Producers reported a record year, others saw a near normal year and a few were below normal in production. Sugar content was usually between 2.25% and 3.0%.

Disaster struck the Williams and Teague sugar camp near Rockville during tapping time as the sugar house burned to the ground. All sugar making equip-

ment and supplies were lost. Art Harris of nearby Greencastle came to the rescue and demonstrated true Hoosier hospitalitv by boiling down all of Williams and Teaque's sugar water.

The Indiana Maple Syrup Association again participated in the Indiana State Fair from August 6-16. Almost perfect weather saw record crowds and brisk sales. Over 400 gallons of maple products and confections were sold during the twelve day run. Profits earned from the Pioneer Village of the Indiana State Fair help IMSA in a variety of ways. These profits keep our dues low, help IMSA to subsidize the meal at our annual meeting and provide flyers to members promoting the maple industry in the Hoosier state. IMSA also helps pay the expenses of its alternates and delegates to the NAMSC annual meeting.

In addition to the above benefits, IMSA also provides its members with top quality speakers at its annual meeting. Past speakers have included Dr. Tim Perkins of the Proctor Research Center, Brad Gillilan of Leader Evaporator and Dr. Gary Graham and Dr. Randy Heiligmann of Ohio State University. Randy has been the featured speaker at several of our annual meetings and will be again this year in Columbia City on December 6. State Fair profits have also allowed the Indiana Maple Syrup Association to make donations to the North American Maple Syrup Council Research Fund and to the Proctor Research Center.

The Indiana Maple Syrup Association lost its founder, first President, long time director and treasurer with the passing of Kenneth Shipley on February 3, 2008. Kenny, of Gaston, Indiana was well known throughout the maple producing region and will be sorely missed. His legacy will live on in the Hoosier association he founded

MAINE

We've had guite a year. The syrup was of very good quality, but there wasn't enough to go around. By the time you read this, syrup will be nudging \$5.00 a pound . . . if you can find any.

Meanwhile the Maine Maple Producers Association in partnership with the Maine Somerset Sugarmakers Association and the Southern Maine Maple Producers has moved on and is looking ahead to hosting the '09 NAMSC convention. This will be our 50th anniversary and we want to make it a memorable experience.

The convention will be held in Bar Harbor which is one of the beauty spots of America. It is located just outside Acadia National Park which is the second most popular national park in the country. Our headquarters will be at Atlantic Oaks by the Sea - a hotel complex with every

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conceivable amenity including a stand alone trade show facility. A full scale Maine lobster bake will be included, and the piece de resistance is the TOUR AFTER THE TOUR to the north country sugar houses where the trees are extra tall and the ladies are all good looking (although there aren't many of them).

MASSACHUSETTS

The winter of 2007-2008 was very cold with record amounts of snow. Working in the woods and preparing for sugaring season was difficult in deep snow, always requiring snowshoes. We had almost textbook perfect sugaring weather which continued for much of the month of March, with freezing nights in the midtwenties, followed by days rarely over forty degrees. The result was an almost daily sap flow of cold, fresh sap, much of it sweeter than usual. The color grade of syrup produced this year was mostly all light amber, with very little dark amber or Grade B syrup made. It seemed like no matter how long the sap remained in tanks before being boiled, it always produced light amber syrup, even from 4 day old sap! There was very little warm weather until very late. Overall our state production was 55,000 gallons, up over 80% from last year. This season was the highest production for Massachusetts in 64 years.

We started off the season with the ninth year of a promotion effort, assisted by our Mass. Department of Agriculture Resources. This is called "March is Maple Month", which promotes local producers and the maple season in general. This year the event was held at a small family sugarhouse in a suburban neighborhood north of Boston. Hundreds of people attended and our Massachusetts maple industry got excellent press coverage as a result.

Syrup prices in Massachusetts have increased, with many producers reporting retail gallon prices of \$48 - \$55, with no

consumer resistance. As usual, the smaller sizes are the most popular. Most all producers have reported increased sales this year, and Massachusetts syrup supylg remains strong. Verv Massachusetts syrup is now sold in bulk. Most all producers are reporting very strong sales, which we attribute to our association's strong marketing and promotional efforts. According to the 2008 USDA Crop Report, Massachusetts now receives the highest per gallon equivalent price.

Our Internet website continues to be a very valuable promotional tool for our state maple industry. During the production season the site received over 3000 "hits" a week, with one week getting almost 4000 "hits". The site contains a wealth of information about the maple syrup industry as well as sources of educational materials, links to member sugarhouses, and sources for mail-order maple products.

In August the dreaded Asian Longhorned Beetle was discovered in Worcester, Massachusetts. This is the first time that an infestation of this insect has been found in maple country and close to large expanses of forest. The state and federal authorities are presently working hard to identify the boundaries



of the infestation and planning an eradication approach. It appears that the infestation has been around for many years and has spread more than initially expected.

Our booth in the Massachusetts Building at the Eastern States Exposition was operated for the 17 day fair again this year. Over one million people visited the fair during its operation. This booth is run by an association member manager, assisted by over 60 member volunteers. In addition to outreach and education about the Massachusetts maple industry, the profit from this fair provides us with promotional funds for the coming year.

MICHIGAN

Hello from the Michigan Maple Syrup The 2008 maple season Association! Southern overall good. was verv Michigan and the Thumb area reported a very good above average season. Both Mid Michigan and the Northern Lower Peninsular both reported a very good season. The Upper Peninsula reported a fair season in the middle of the UP and very poor on both the east & west sides of the UP. There were very few extended runs but most reported steady - no starts and stops in sap runs as in past years most everyone had a short year. Sugar content was above normal in most all areas of Lower Michigan.

It seems the weather was perfect this year for sugaring in Lower Michigan. The majority of the producers felt that even though it was a short season what they did produce was a quality product.

The Michigan association held its annual meeting on 19th of January 2008. We had a great weather day - no storms this year - attendance was at 180. This is lower than in the past. Board members decided to go back to several breakout sessions instead of the format used the past two years. Based on a survey taken at the meeting this is what our membership wants. Keith Wakefield from CDL and Garth Atherton were our guest speak-

ers for the day. Topics included RO machines and their value and tubing and vacuum systems.

The MMSA Newsletter is published and distributed to members three times a year featuring regular updates from the president (Ron Thomas), member profiles, articles on new syrup technology, advice on product sales and information about upcoming events within Michigan. Information is also provided about upcoming events from neighboring states and Canada when it is available.

Two Association members are continuing to work with Michigan Farm Bureau and a local State Representative in revising the Property Tax Classification for Maple Operations. Currently Maple Syrup is not spelled out as an "agriculture product" in the General Property Tax Act. As it stands now, maple syrup operations could be assessed as commercial which could result in personal property tax assessments on equipment and/or trees. Maple producers are seen as a processing center for maple on the same level as timber production rather than a food crop. As with all legislation we seem to go one step forward and two steps back. The bill has been out of committee but with this being election year it is on hold until after November 4th.

The 2008 fall tour is scheduled to take place on the 27th of September on St Joseph Island in Ontario, Canada. Syrup producers from St. Joseph Island invited our Association late last year to visit them. They are going all out for us with a great sounding program for the day. This is the first time our Fall Tour has been outside the state and we are all looking forward to meeting our neighbors to the North of us. This is also the time producers share stories of the past years' production and what to look forward to this season.

The Michigan Maple Syrup Association currently has 160 members.

MINNESOTA

2008 turned out to be one of the better

years for maple syrup since the 1990's. For some producers it was the best ever.

Minnesota finally had somewhat of a normal winter with snow on the ground from late November and early December through mid April. Our frost was not very deep this year with the snow protection. This has been a major problem for the past 5 years. Spring was "late" as the temperatures were generally not right for "sugaring" in March. What was nice to see was a "normal" transition of temperatures through March and April which was good for sugaring. The mid-central to north-central part of the state was blessed with 2 snowstorms about a week apart in April which were wonderful "sugaring" snows with at least 12" of heavy snow. The second one was a 2 day blizzard. Both had very good runs after them.

The southern half of the state started pulling sap the 3rd week of March with the rest of the state starting to pull about April 1st. Sugar numbers pretty much averaged around 3% with reports 3.8% to 4.4% coming in. Minnesota is consistently blessed with high sugar numbers and this year was no different. At least this year those sugar makers on buckets reported a good year, which is something we could not say in the past. A few people on high vacuum had their best year ever. Good quality maple syrup was made in the state. As with the rest of the country energy costs have become a major problem and it is no different in Minnesota. Our producers have had to incorporate these costs into their pricing and so far it seems to have had no effect.

Our state association has 90 very active members that serves producers very well. A midwestern "Thank You" to the Massachusetts Maple Producers Association for hosting the 2008 NAMSC meetings.

NEW BRUNSWICK

I would first like to thank the Massachusetts Maple Producers

Association for hosting this year, the North American Maple Syrup Council meetings and the International Maple Syrup Institute meetings.

This year winter started early and never seemed to let up. Just as soon as we finished cleaning up from one storm we were hit with another. Most producers saw a lot more snow than in the past to start the maple tapping season. As more northern producers started shoveling in January and February so they could get at the lines. Once they were tapped in it didn't warm up until early April. When it did start to run it was cut short by ever increasing warmer days. The quality of the maple syrup turned out to be darker than normal in the south and very light in the north. Most producers only got 50% or less this season. We thought last year was bad. This one was worse.

Yvon Poitras our general manager has had a busy year with our association. He has been on some trade missions to France and parts of the United States trying to open up markets for New Brunswick Maple Syrup. Our association activities this year were many. Our annual meeting was held in January in Grand Falls and was very well attended we had a number of speakers and topics. Some directors retired and some new ones were added along with a new president, Rino LeClerc. An advanced payment program was implemented by our association and a sugarbush management program was also brought onboard.

Two GPS courses were held this year, one in French and one in English. The association printed and circulated a color brochure to our provincial tourist information centers of a provincial map with maple camps that accepts visitors. They also circulated a new maple recipe brochure to many provincial destinations and made it available to its members for circulation. Our website is under constant updating. This year a newsletter has been added and our new promotional video

which is available to its members in both French and English. Our website: www.infor.maple.ca

NEW YORK

In January the V.V.S. School again hosted the central region maple school. There were over five hundred participants from surrounding states and provinces. At some programs there was standing room only. Numerous renown speakers shared their wealth of maple knowledge with both novice and experienced maple enthusiasts.

Over one hundred maple producers opened their sugar houses for maple weekend in March. There was record attendance reported with visitors looking to learn about and taste the various products maple has to offer.

Maple production in New York was extremely good. Many producers reported having record producing years. Light and medium syrup dominated most farms. Lesser amounts of darker syrup grades were made. Bulk sale prices have been at record levels.

At the American Maple Museum opening in Croghan, in May, Bill Brown and Sam Cutting were inducted in the Maple Hall of Fame before a full house audience. A new queen and princess were appointed through a judging contest. Grants are being pursued to enable handicap accessibility throughout the museum.

The summer tour took place in the Finger Lakes region. Besides our traditional stops at a variety of sugar house operations we also toured a winery and a windmill site. The banquet was attended by over two hundred people. Steve Childs received the Charlie Hubbell award.

Our state and federal government responded to our idea to build a Maple Center at our Syracuse State Fair location. Through generous grants and donations, construction began just months before opening day in mid-August. On August 21st we had a much

anticipated ribbon cutting for the opening of our new Maple Center. We have twelve hundred square feet of space, including a demonstration kitchen, sales and display space. Molded maple sugar, a fair tradition, made in the booth, continued to delight the public viewer's palate. We added a greater variety of value-added products including maple shakes, slushies and soft maple ice cream.

Working through Cornell, Steve Childs was busy presenting value-added workshops across New York and at a few out-of-state locations. Participants voice appreciation for the knowledge they are gaining from Steve's efforts. Overall our county fairs that have maple booths also report record sales. The public's interest in maple products is increasing despite necessary higher product prices.

There is a great deal of interest in increasing maple syrup production in New York. This is evidenced in the increased numbers of taps and improved efficiency. Due to the continued success we have gleaned in our state maple industry, we would recommend to other states to consider the establishing of a state maple coordinator/executor director position.

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COMING EVENTS

NEW YORK STATE MAPLE PRODUCERS CONFERENCE

January 9 and 10, 2008
Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School, Verona, NY
For more informatioin contact:
Keith Schiebel at:
kschiebel@vvsschools.org

19th ANNUAL HEBRON MAPLE FESTIVAL

March 14 & 15, 2009
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Hebron, Connecticut, Route 66 & 84
for more information contact:
www.hebronmaplefest.com or e-mail: rlwenzel@snet.net

23rd MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

March 14 & 15, 2009
Warkworth, Ontario, Canada
For more information contact:
Alice Potter Tel: (705) 924-2057 Fax: (705) 924-1673

NAMSC/IMSI ANNUAL MEETING 2008

October 22-26, 2009
Atlantic Oakes Resort - Bar Harbor, Maine
Contact: Al Bolduc, e-mail: verdevale@hotmail.com

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