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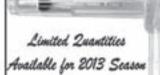
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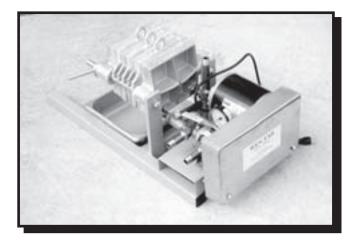
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WES FAB Wayne "Wes" E. Schoepke, Jr. 14420 12th Ave., Merrill, Wisconsin 54452 (715) 536-0501 MAPLE SYRUP DIGEST Official publication of the North American Maple Syrup Council www.northamericanmaple.org Published and Edited by: ROY S. HUTCHINSON • P.O. BOX 240, CANTERBURY, NH 03224 Phone: 603-783-4468 • Fax: 603-783-9953 • Email: mapledigest@tds.net Published four times a year (Feb., June, Oct., Dec.) Postage paid at: Canterbury, NH 03224

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GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Hello to all,

I hope the trip home wasn't made too arduous by Hurricane Sandy. To everyone affected by this super storm, I wish you courage and the best of luck.

We had a very interesting meeting. Thank you to the Connecticut team for your warm welcome. We're beginning a new year at NAMSC and I'll be working hard to resolve some of the challenging files we need to manage. I'll take this opportunity to thank everyone who took part in the different contests and congratulate the winners.

Congratulations also to the Citadelle team on their prize win for their new SmartSak packaging.

And thanks again to everyone who I had the wonderful opportunity to work with during the meeting.

Until next time,

Bonjour à vous tous,

J'espère que le retour à la maison n'a pas été trop pénible à cause de la tempête Sandy. A tous ceux qui ont été touchés par cette tempête, je souhaite bonne chance et beaucoup de courage.

Nous avons vécu une rencontre très intéressante. Merci à toute l'équipe du Connecticut de votre accueil chaleureux. Nous commençons une nouvelle année au NAMSC et j'espère que les dossiers ardus que nous avons à gérer se solutionneront. Je profite de l'occasion pour remercier tous ceux qui ont participé au différents concours. Je félicite tous les gagnants.

Félicitations à l'équipe de Citadelle qui a remporté un prix pour le nouvel emballage SmartSak.

Merci encore à tous ceux qui ont coopéré avec moi lors du congrès.

A bientôt.

Cécile B. Pichette Présidente NAMSC

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IMSI NEWS

By: Dave Chapeskie, R.P.F., Executive Director, IMSI

The IMSI held their quarterly Board of Directors Meeting on Monday October 21st and their Annual General meeting on Tuesday, October 22nd in Groton, Connecticut. These business meetings of the Institute were very well attended.

IMSI Membership Report

IMSI membership categories include state and provincial maple associations, maple cooperatives and packers, maple equipment manufacturers and individual members. Presently, there are 19 Canadian members and 30 US members in the Institute. The importance of membership dues in helping finance high priority projects of the Institute was discussed along with the need to further grow membership so that project expences can be fully accommodated. Current IMSI members are encouraged to help the Institute recruit new members and those who view the work of the Institute as valuable to the future of the maple syrup industry are encouraged to join. In Connecticut, the IMSI Board of Directors approved a motion not to raise membership dues for 2013.

IMSI Proposed Standard Definition, Grades and Nomenclature for Pure Maple Syrup

Work towards regulatory approvals on the IMSI's Standard Grades initiative at the federal and state/provincial level (US & Canada) is expected to extend well into 2013. Maple syrup producers and other maple syrup industry stakeholders will be advised

by the IMSI when approvals are obtained, when implementation can proceed as well as details regarding a possible transition period between the current grading systems and the new grade standard. Market trial exposure work for the new grading system has been completed by the IMSI and findings were presented at the IMSI Annual meeting in Groton. CT in October, Consumer feedback from consumers engaged in these trial are supportive of the changes being proposed and consistent with related consumer research sponsored earlier by the IMSI. A few potential suppliers are in the process of developing, or have already developed prototype colour classification equipment aligned with the proposed new standard so that equipment can be made available once regulatory approval(s) for the change are obtained.

IMSI Maple Nutrition Information

In recent months the IMSI has focused on making the nutrition poster & rackcard and nutrition related research information which has been prepared and packaged by the IMSI accessible to potential users. The material can now be accessed on the IMSI website (www.internationalmaplesyrpinstitute.com) and other options to make the material available in hard copy are being considered.Nutrition information was available at the IMSI's exhibit at the North American/ International Maple Syrup Institute meetings in Groton, CT.

California Proposition 65 -Maple Issue

The IMSI is working to help address the California Proposition 65

-Maple issue. Details are strictly confidential on this file.

IMSI Exotic Insect Industry Position Development

The IMSI has initiated a project which is intended to lead to a maple industry position paper on the Asian Longhorned Beetle and most likely Emerald Ash Borer. The IMSI is in the very initial stages of this work which is being lead by Ray Bonenbeg, IMSI Director representing the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers' Association. Anyone who may be interested in contributing to this work should contact the IMSI's Executive Director, Dave Chapeskie.

IMSI Adulteration Testing and Misrepresentation of Maple in the Marketplace

The IMSI is reviewing options for testing laboratories in both the US and Canada to conduct IMSI sponsored adulteration testing. A decision regarding laboratories to be used in the future will be addressed at the February 2013 Board of Directors meeting in Burlington, VT. In the meantime, IMSI members who wish to submit samples for adulteration testing through this program should contact Dave Chapeskie for program details. The IMSI is also closely monitoring research underway at Centre Acer in Quebec which is focused on developing the capacity for adulteration testing of syrup.

The IMSI continues to be vigilant regarding the marketing of competing syrup products in the marketplace which may be misleading to the consumer. If you are aware of a syrup product where you believe container type, labelling and/or shelf placement may be misleading to the consumer, you are encouraged to bring this to the attention of appropriate regulatory authorities for assessment. Alternatively, you could bring it to the attention of the IMSI's Executive Director for follow-up.

IMSI Website Renewal

The IMSI website has been renewed (summer of 2012); IMSI members and others are encouraged to visit the site. There is a good cross-section of information online related to IMSI business at www.internationalmaplesyrupinstitute.com The website is bilingual with English and French language components.

IMSI Sponsored Awards (2012)

Hank Peterson of Londonderry, New Hampshire was the recipient of the 2012 Lynn Reynolds Memorial Leadership Award and Citadelle Cooperative was the recipient of the 2012 Golden Maple Leaf Award. The Lynn Reynolds Award recognizes outstanding leadership of an individual in support of the North American and/or International Maple Syrup Industry. The Golden Maple Leaf Award recognizes excellence in innovation.

Changes to IMSI Executive Committee & Board for 2013

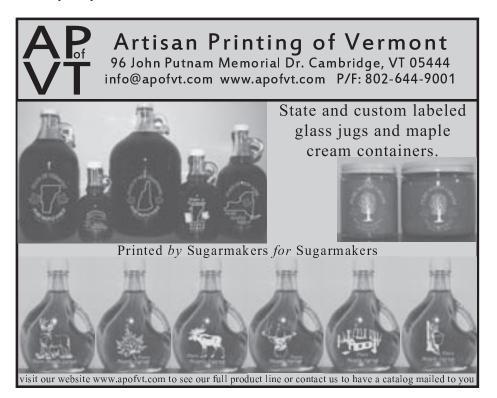
Yvon Poitras, General Manager of the New Brunswick Maple Syrup Producers Association is the IMSI President Elect (2013) and Mark Harran, President of the Connecticut Maple Producers Association the IMSI Vice President Elect (2013).

Steve Selby will continue to serve as Treasurer (expect one year), Richard Norman will assume the position of Past President (two year term) and Dave Chapeskie has been appointed as Executive Director (decided annually). Gary Gaudette will be retiring from his role of Past President on December 31st and is thanked for his many years of service. The twenty-seven member IMSI Board of Directors will undergo minimal change in 2013 with Mark Bigelow replacing Steve Jones of Maple Grove Farms on the Board. Steve is thanked for his service and Mark is welcomed.

Upcoming Maple Industry Meetings

The IMSI Board of Directors meetings schedule for 2013 is being filled in. The next IMSI Board of Directors meeting will be held in Burlington, Vermont on Thursday, February 7th, the Board meeting following that will be held in Ottawa, Ontario on Tuesday, May 7th and a Maine location is being considered for the August meeting.

The 2013 Annual Meeting of the IMSI and NAMSC will be held in Moncton, New Brunswick, The program will offer French and English language services. As many of you know. New Brunswick is a favourite destination in North America. New Brunswick features friendly people, beautiful scenery, cultural diversity and a prosperous maple syrup industry with unique attributes. The New Brunswick Maple Syrup Association has extended a special invitation to each of you to attend the 2013 joint meeting of the International Maple Syrup Institute and the North American Maple Syrup Council in Moncton. New Brunswick from Wednesday, October 23rd to Friday October 25th. 2013.



December 2012



2012 North American Maple Syrup Council 53rd Annual Meeting and Convention October 22-25 2012 Mystic, Connecticut

The 53rd annual meeting of the North American Maple Syrup Council (NAMSC) was hosted by the Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut at the Mystic Marriot Hotel and Spa, Mystic, Connecticut. The theme for the convention was "Tapping into Connecticut".

The conference was held together with the 38th annual meeting of the International Maple Syrup Institute (IMSI). Meetings began Monday, October 22 with the informal NAMSC Officers, Delegates and Alternate Delegates meeting and the IMSI board of directors' meeting.

The convention opened with a bilingual welcome by Cecile Brassard Pichette, president NAMSC, Mr. Richard Norman, president IMSI and Steven Reviczky, Commissioner of the CT Department of Agriculture. Commissioner Reviczky stated that Agriculture contributes \$3.5 billion annually to Connecticut's economy.

The 53 annual meeting of the NAMSC was called order by President Cecile Brassard Pichette Tuesday October 23 at 8:30am.

Secretary's Report: Joe Polak, secretary, read the roll call of states and provinces. The delegates introduced their respective alternate delegates.

Delegates (D) and Alternates (A) present included:

• Maple Syrup Producers Association of **Connecticut**; J. Mark Harran (D), Brian Atwood (A)

• Indiana Maple Syrup Association; Keith Ruble (D), Dave Hamilton (A)

• Maine Maple Producers Association; Alfred Bolduc (D), Lyle Merrifield (A)

• Massachusetts Maple Producers Association, Inc.; Winton Pitcoff (D), Ed Parker (A)

• Michigan Maple Syrup Association; Larry Haigh (D), Debbie Thomas (A)

• Minnesota Maple Producers Association, Inc.; Ralph Fideldy (D), Stu Peterson (A)

• New Brunswick Maple Syrup Association, Inc.; David Briggs (D), Michael Salmon (A)

• New Hampshire Maple Producers Assoc.; Hank Peterson (D), Bill Eva (A)

• New York State Maple Producers Association; Dr. Eric Randall (D), Dwayne Hill (A)

• Maple Producers Association of Nova Scotia; Avard Bentley (D), Kevin McCormick (A)

• Ohio Maple Producers Association; Dave Hively (D)

• Ontario Maple Syrup Association; Frank Chaikowski (D), Bill Robinson (A)

Pennsylvania Maple Syrup Producers Council; Wayne Clark (D), Burton Kimball (A)
Maple Syrup Producers Cooperative of Quebec, (Cooperative de Producteurs de

Sirop D'erable du Quebec); Cecile Brassard Pichette, (D), Michel Labbe (A)

• Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Assoc.; Paul Palmer (D), Rick Marsh (A)

• Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producers Association, Inc.; Fred Hedmark (D)

The secretary reported all member states and provinces were present and represented.

The minutes of the 52nd annual meeting held at Frankenmuth, Michigan were presented as written by secretary, Joe Polak.

Motion was made by E. Randall, seconded by A. Bolduc and approved.

Financial Report: report of the General Fund as of FYE August 31, 2012 was presented by Treasurer, Joe Polak.

• Funds in the checking account: \$11,674.87.

• Cash receipts \$31,020.00 and disbursements were \$29,632.59, leaving a net gain of \$1387.41.

• Total funds held in CD's for reserve \$75,757.70.

• It was noted that income is based solely on dues from member states and provinces. This past year \$11,614.00 was billed in dues. This is an increase \$658.00.

The Richard G Haas Memorial Fund was established in spring of 2011.

• Donations received to date are reported at \$14,563.70.

Motion was made by A. Bolduc, seconded by K. Ruble to approve financial reports as presented subject to audit committees review, motion passed.

Roy Hutchinson, editor, reported on the financial condition of the Maple Syrup Digest.

• Total deposits for the FY 2012 \$29,146.70 and total expenses \$27,082.04. Net gain of \$2,064.66.

Motion made to accept report by E. Randall, seconded by A. Bolduc subject to audit committees review, motion passed.

Executive Directors Report:

Mike Girard reported on the two-hour Strategic Planning Session held on Monday October 22nd with the Officers, Delegates, Alternates and Committee Chairs of the Council. The four key areas of focus going forward are in the areas of Maple Research Funding and Education, Finance, Communication, and Organizational. The new short and long range plan will be prepared for the Delegates review and further input at the 2013 annual meeting.

Mike also reported the communication and participation with the Continental Dialogue. This is a lobby group that communicates with congressional leaders on funding of forest and agricultural related programs. The NAMSC was signatory on two letters in 2011-12 that encouraged federal legislators to continue the funding of research, controls and programs for eradication of non-native forest insects and pests such as the Asian Longhorned Beetle and; the "Safeguarding American Agriculture Act of 2011" which supports the proper treatment of foreign cargo, pallets and superstructures entering our U.S. ports.

Research Fund Report:

Research Fund treasurer, Joe Polak, reported the financial condition of the Research Fund as of August 31, 2012

• Total of \$38,654.67 was contributed to the Research fund from voluntary contributions through the "penny per container" program in 2012.

• \$21,757.05 was expended for approved 2011 research grants.

Motion by L. Haigh, seconded by M. Harran to approved Research Fund financial report subject to audit committees review, motion passed.

Winton Pitcoff, Chairman Research Fund Committee, reported NAMSC received four requests for funding. The committee suggested funding the following research proposals:

• "Evaluating Microbial Maple Syrup Contamination", Kathy Hopkins, University of Maine \$7,345.00.

• "Does Tubing Cleaning Increase Sap Yield?" Dr. Abby van den Berg, University of Vermont, Proctor Research Center \$11,510.00 in 2012 and \$11,510.00 in 2013.

• "Measuring Imidacloprid Contamination of Maple Sap and Syrup Following Prescribed Asian Longhorned Beetle Quarantine Treatment", Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Richard S. Cowles. \$5,699.00 and \$5,699.00 in 2013.

Motion was made to approve funding as presented by K. Ruble, seconded by A. Bolduc, motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Website Committee report was submitted by webmaster Karl Zander, and reported by Mike Girard.

• A document library has been added to NAMSC website. This is password protected and needs a unique password to access. This is a means for Council Officers and Delegates to exchange documents for Council business.

• Karl is looking for items to include on the calendar of events. Please send information such as workshops and meetings pertaining to the maple industry: kzander@mapleacres.com

• Press releases and other articles about the crop or the industry should be sent to the same address. As a spokes vehicle for the industry we can then issue statements about maple topics.

• If the Council video tapes the technical session during the convention we can post those to our website. This will make the information available to a larger audience.

Convention Planning Committee chairman, Joe Polak reported on "Planning Aid Reference for the Annual Meetings". The major difference between this document and the "Directive" presented last year is the wording of the title.

Motion was made to accept the revised wording by R. Fideldy, seconded by W. Pitcoff, motion passed.

Finance Committee report by Joe Polak stated the Council is financially sound. The General Fund increased 13.4% in 2012. The Research fund increased \$16,898.00. This was due in part to a return by the University of Vermont of unused funds and conservative spending.

Maple Digest Advisory Committee report was presented by Rick Marsh. Work is progressing on translating technical papers. The initial goal will be to translate technical reports printed in the Maple Digest.

Maple Tap Act update was presented by Michael Farrell Director of Uihlein Forest, Cornell University.

December 2012

• The bill was originally introduced in 2008 by Rep. Schumer of New York. The purpose is to support production education and promotion of maple on state and tribal lands. This is a part of the Farm Bill. It has passed the House Ag Committee.

• Mike urged that all state maple associations contact their Congressman and Senators and ask for their support as it will benefit the industry. Reference Senate amendment 2427 to the Farm Bill.

Maple Syrup Producers Manual Committee - Dr. Tim Perkins of the University of Vermont stated the present manual is due for partial modifications to update advancements in the industry.

• 10,142 manuals have been sold.

• 1,300 are in stock which is approximately two to three years inventory.

• Dr. Tim Perkins, Dr. Randy Heiligmann, Dr. Mel Koelling and Dr. Amy van den Berg are the editing committee.

• At this point Chapters 6, 7 and 8 will be reviewed and updated.

Maple Hall of Fame Committee chairman, Gary Gaudette, talked about last year's activities.

• Hall of Fame began in 1977.

• Opening day for the American Maple Museum in Croghan,NY is the 3rd Saturday in May and includes the induction of Maple Hall of Fame honorees.

• The 2012 inductees into the Maple Hall of Fame were Michael Girard, CT and Dave Chapeskie, ON.

New Syrup Grading Standards report was given by Dave Chapeskie, Executive Director IMSI:

• In September 2011 the new proposed Grading Standards were approved by the maple industry and submitted to state and provincial jurisdictions. The jurisdictions were asked to incorporate these proposed standards into law.

• The proposed changes are moving forward on the federal level in both Canada and U.S.

• Target date for jurisdictional (governmental) approval is expected in 2013 plus an additional implementation period will be needed to allow producers time to transition the new grading standards into their markets.

• The proposed standards were used on a trial basis in a couple locations in both Canada and U.S. and the consensus is that both the consumers and producers prefer the new grading system.

• Dave reported that Lovabond has offered to develop a light wheel for grading with the new standards.

Vermont Grade Standards Meetings was reported by Henry Marckres, Consumer Protection Chief, Vermont Agency of Agriculture. Henry reported on a series of three meetings in Vermont regarding the proposed grading standards with discussion centering on the details of the new syrup grading standards.

Henry also mentioned that the 10th Grading School will be held immediately following the convention. The purpose of the school is to teach how to properly grade syrup and identify the variations in color, flavor, clarity, and density of different pure maple syrups.

Maple Nutrition - Ray Bonenberg reported on about maple nutrition literature available.

• A "rack card" has been developed and the format is easy to incorporate into local organization literature.

• Scientific papers are available for reference and reproduction on CD.

An 11 x 17 full color Poster available also on the CD or available on the IMSI website; following the convention.

www.internationalmaplesyrupinstitute.com

Log Cabin / Pinnacle Foods - Dave Chapeskie, Ex. Director IMSI, gave a status report on the situation regarding the trade-dress issue where Pinnacle / Log Cabin brand was misrepresenting a blended maple product.

• Letters to Pinnacle Foods expressed industry's belief that product is an intentional misrepresentation.

• The container used is a copy of a traditional jug used for packaging pure maple syrup.

• Placement on retail shelves should not be with pure maple syrup.

• Pinnacle Foods responded twice to letters.

• Some adjustments have been made by Pinnacle Foods to the container label.

• The blended Log Cabin product has been removed from some regional markets.

Food Safety Modernization Act was reported on by Larry Haigh, MI:

Signed into law January 2012

- Many of the rules are not yet written
- Most small producers will be exempt

• Beware of companies offering to write a plan for a fee www.FDA.gov food

• Asian Longhorned Beetle in Ohio reported on July 2011 was updated by

Dr. Gray Graham, OSE Extension, Maple Specialist:

- 200,000 trees have been inspected.
- 9,000 found to be infected on 53 acres.
- · More information visit: www.beetlebusters.com

Maine Maple Industry Task Force update was presented by Kathryn Hopkins:

• Need to include Extension, small / large producers, 2- state maple association and Farm Bureau.

- Study the growth of maple industry
- Leasing possibilities
- Education and Curriculum
- Identify funding
- Comprehensive promotion

Maple Insurance for the Sugarbush - Chris Pfeil talked about the need to insure production forests against fire, drought, floods, wind, ice, insects or vandalism.

Maple Specialists Report was given by Dr. Gary Graham, OSU Extension:

- Fifteen people attended the meeting.
- Contact information was updated.

• Next year there will only be five technical presentations due to time meeting time constraints.

Newsletter Committee - Tim Wilmot, UVM Extension, reported poster display in the lobby of many state and provincial newsletters.

Elections: Nominating Committee, Chairman Rick Marsh, and members Larry Haigh and Dr. Eric Randall nominated the following:

Life Members

Henry Marckres, VT

(Remove Bill Gabriel and Fred Winch)

Associate Members - Term expiring 2015

Helen Thomas	Executive Director NYSMA	NY
Chris Russo	Manufacturer	MA
George Cook	Extension Specialist, Farm Safety	VT
Eric Prud'Homme	Inspector	PQ
Jacques Couture	Producer	VT
Jay Johnson	NASS	MI
Peter Haas	Manufacturer	MA
Daniel Lalanne	Manufacturer	PQ
Kathryn Hopkins	Extension Educator	ME
Todd Luety	Agroforestry Specialist	ON
Russell Kidd	Professor Emeritus	MI
Officers for one year term:		
President	Cecile Brassard Pichette	PQ
Vice President	Dave Hamilton	IN
Secretary/Treasurer	Joe Polak	WI

Motion made to elect the slate as presented by W. Clark, seconded by P. Palmer, motion passed.

Audit/Review Committee Report:

Chairman J. Mark Harran, (members David Briggs and Dave Hamilton) reported that the committee has determined a professional audit would be too expensive (up to \$5,000.00) and that the funds for a formal audit are not available. The committee recognizes that limited time is available at the annual meeting to review the last year of financial reports but the committee was confident that there were no irregularities or reasons for concern. There was however, a miscopied number on page 31 of the financial statement of Cash flow under Maple Digest. It was reported as \$715.00 for office supplies, it should be \$713.00.

Motion was made by J. M. Harran, seconded by A. Bolduc that Next year the appointed audit committee members would receive the financial records at least two weeks prior to the convention to allow more time for their review. The treasurer will seek an outside professional review of the financials in lieu of a professional audit. Motion seconded by A. Bolduc, Passed.

Old Business: None

Appointments:

President, Cecile Brassard Pichette appointed committees 2012 - 2013:

• Audit Committee: J. Mark Harran, chairman, David Briggs and Cecile Brassard Pichette and Dave Hamilton.

• **Convention Planning Committee:** Joe Polak, chairman, Michael Girard, Cecile Brassard Pichette, Dave Hamilton and Rick Marsh

• **Finance Committee:** Cecile Brassard Pichette, chairman, Dave Hamilton, Joe Polak, Rick Marsh and Mike Girard.

• **Maple Digest Advisory Committee:** Rick Marsh, chairman, Roy Hutchinson, editor, Karl Zander, Luc Lussier, Winton Pitcoff, David Briggs and Bill Robinson.

• Maple Hall of Fame Committee: Gary Gaudette, chairman, Avard Bentley, Roy Hutchinson, Richard Norman, Luc Lussier and Norman Anderson.

• **Maple Manual Committee:** Mike Girard, chairman, Winton Pitcoff, Dave Hamilton, Eric Randall and Joe Polak.

• Newsletter Committee: Tim Wilmot, chairman.

• **Research Committee:** Winton Pitcoff, chairman, Eric Randall, Jacques Couture, Joe Polak, Mike Girard, Ron Wenzel, Luc Lussier, Michael Salmon and Frank Chaikowski.

• **Strategic Planning Committee:** chairman, Mike Girard, Dave Hamilton, Roy Hutchinson, Rick Marsh, Cecile Brassard Pichette, Dave Hively, Martin Plante and Joe Polak.

• **Translation Committee:** Cecile Brassard Pichette, chairman, Rick Marsh and Yvon Poitras.

• Website Committee: Karl Zander, chairman, Cecile Brassard Pichette and Mike Girard.

Executive Director Annual Appointment: Michael Girard

New Business:

Yvon Poitras welcomed the NAMSC and IMSI Convention 2013 to New Brunswick, October 23-25. This will be a bilingual meeting and formatted per the approved Planning Aid Reference for annual meetings.

Mike Girard, Executive Director introduced maple producer Tom Buck, who reported to the Council that the state of Rhode Island has a maple association in formation and will request / petition that Rhode Island become the 17th member of the North American Maple Syrup Council at the New Brunswick Annual meeting in 2013.

A motion to adjourn the NAMSC's 53rd Annual Meeting was made by K. Ruble, seconded A. Bolduc, and passed.

Connecticut Tour stops on Thursday included:

• Clyde's Cider Mill, the only remaining steam-powered cider mill in the United States.

• Uncle Buck's Sugar House, Tom Bucks Rhode Island maple operation that has grown from 5 taps in 1996 to 420 on buckets and tubing.

• The USS Nautilus Museum, more than 33,000 artifacts, 20,000 significant documents and 30,000 photographs. A 6000 volume reference library makes this a world renowned collection to see.

• Mystic Seaport Maritime Museum, shipbuilding and shops have been at this location since the 1600's and probably even before. A collection of buildings and wooden ships makes this the nation's leading maritime museum.

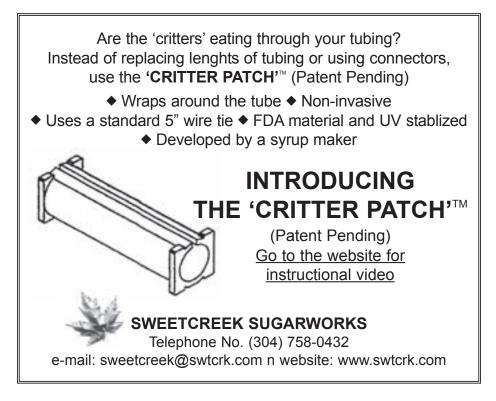
• Lunch was provided by Ashaway Grange, a fraternal organization with it basis in agriculture, today it is a community service organization.

Annual Banquet:

• Maple Hall of Fame Chairman Gary Gaudette reported that the 2013 Inductees to Maple Hall of Fame will be Dale McIssac, NS and Jerry Kless, PQ

• The Richard G Haas Award was presented by Joe Polak and Mike Girard to Sugarhill Containers, the Haas family, in recognition of the many years of support of the maple syrup industry. Sugarhill was active in the Maple Research Fund as a charter participant with their support of the "penny per container "program and more recently as a Maple Research Alliance Partner.

Respectfully submitted, Joe Polak, Secretary NAMSC





WINNERS AT THE 2012 NAMSC/IMSI CONFERENCE

IN MYSTIC, CT

PHOTO CONTEST Best of Show

Brian Folsom - New Hampshire

Visitors to the Sugarbush

- 1. Frank Chaikowsky Ontario
- 2. George Riordon New Brunswick
- 3. Michel Labbe Quebec Maple People on the Job
- 1. Brian Folsom New Hampshire
- 2. Michel Labbe Quebec
- 3. Frank Merriman Ohio

Sugarbush Scenes

- 1. Ruth Webb Ohio
- 2. Frank Merriman Ohio
- 3. Gary Graham Ohio Sugarhouses
- 1. George Riordon New Brunswick
- 2. Frank Merriman Ohio
- 3. Michel Labbe Quebec Creative Maple Photography
- 1. Brian Folsom New Hampshire

- 2. George Riordon, New Brunswick
- 3. Frank Merriman Ohio

MAPLE CONTEST

Maple Syrup - Best of Show

Frank Chaikowsky of Little Rideau Farm - Ontario

Light Amber

- 1. Frank Chaikowsky Ontario
- 2. Brown Family Ohio
- 3. Mike Girard Connecticut Medium Amber
- 1. Donald O. Smith Michigan
- 2. Frank Chaikowsky Ontario
- 3. Jesse Wagner Wisconsin Dark Amber
- 1. Frank Chaikowsky Ontario
- 2. Steven Wood Wisconsin
- 3. Jesse Wagner Wisconsin

Best Maple Products Other than Syrup Best of Show

David Campbell of Mapleland Farms -New York for Maple Candy





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Maple Candy

1. David Campbell of Mapleland Farms - New York

2. Larry and Karen Haigh of Haigh's Maple Syrup & Supplies - Michigan

3. James & Linda Miller of Sugar Valley Maple - Ohio

Maple Cream

1. Ray and Carol Anne Bonnenberg of Mapleside Sugarbush - Ontario

2. Frank Chaikowsky of Little Rideau Farm - Ontario

3. George L Riordon of Riordon Maple Products - New Brunswick

Maple Sugar

1. Frank Chaikowsky of Little Rideau Farm - Ontario

2. Larry and Karen Haigh of Haigh's Maple Syrup & Supplies - Michigan

3. Steven Wood of Wood's Maple Orchard - Wisconsin

Novelty Products

1. Donald O Smith of D.J.K.R. -Michigan - Maple Jelly

2. Lyle and Jo-Ann Merrifield of Merrifield Farm - Maine - Maple Butter

3. Frank Chaikowsky of Little Rideau Farm - Ontario - Maple Vinegar

Sugarhill Containers and Haas Family Recipients of the Richard G. Haas Distinguished Service Award

At the Annual NAMSC October Meeting in Mystic, CT, members of the North American Maple Syrup Council presented the Richard G. Haas Memorial Award - Alliance Partner to Sugarhill Containers and the Haas Family. This award is presented at the NAMSC Annual Meeting to "a leading Maple Research Organization, Maple Research Professional or Research Alliance Partner for their work and/or contributions to the maple industry".

The Haas Family and Sugarhill Containers were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the advancement of the maple industry for their assistance in implementing the "one penny per container" program which over the years has generated thousands of volunteer contributions from their customers for the NAMSC Research Fund. The original "one penny per container" contribution program was established by the NAMSC in 1987 and Hillside Plastics / Sugarhill Containers of Falls. Turners Massachusetts were recognized as the first maple industry manufacturer to offer assistance in the soliciting contributions for the program which funds Maple Research.

Joe Polak and Mike Girard jointly presented the award to Peter and Janet Haas and staff members of Sugarhill Containers on behalf of the Council at its October 25th Annual Awards Banquet.

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Maple Syrup Digest

Chemical Composition of Scale in Maple Syrup Evaporators

Mark Isselhardt, Abby van den Berg and Timothy Perkins University of Vermont, Proctor Maple Research Center PO Box 233, Underhill Center, VT 05490

INTRODUCTION - As maple sap is concentrated into maple syrup, mineral deposits form within the evaporator. This naturally-occurring material can be broadly divided into two forms: sugar sand and scale. Sugar sand (also called niter or loose scale) is a precipitate that forms when the solubility of various elements in solution is exceeded. The resulting material is typically comprised mostly of calcium malate suspended in syrup (Heiligmann et al. 2006). The presence of sugar sand in unfiltered syrup results in a cloudy appearance, imparts an undesirable, gritty texture to syrup, and can result in an off-flavor if left in syrup over a period of time. Loose sugar sand is considered a nuisance by the syrup producer because it must be removed by some method of filtering before the syrup can be graded and sold. Past work has identified the variability in chemical composition of loose sugar sand (Snell 1914, Davis et al. 1963, published in subsequent editions of the North American Maple Syrup Producers Manual). For example, previous investigations of loose sugar sand have observed the calcium malate content to range widely from less than 2% to as much as 85% (Snell et al. 1914, Willits et al. 1958). Chemical analysis of loose sugar sand shows the greatest single constituent of the material is generally calcium. One study observed calcium concentrations to range from as low as 0.61% to as much as 16.75% (Snell 1914). Warren (1911) determined calcium to be 17.14%. Earlier studies have identified a significant correlation between the calcium content in sap and the amount of sugar sand formed (Davis et al. 1963).

The second type of deposits, a persistent scale that is bonded to evaporator pans, presents additional challenges to the maple producer. This material is particularly problematic since it adheres tightly to the heated surface of evaporator pans, thus reducing heat transfer, resulting in a reduction of evaporator efficiency. Evaporators coated with scale are also at increased risk of overheating and damaging the pans (Heiligmann et al. 2006). Overheating presents the further danger of imparting a scorched sugar taste to syrup if scale is allowed to persist and the entrapped sugar burns. Removing scale from evaporator surfaces is difficult and time-consuming, therefore most sugarmakers resort to the periodic use of concentrated acid solutions (typically phosphoric acid) to dissolve the heaviest scale deposits.

A review of relevant literature revealed no published values on the mineral and metal composition of scale in maple syrup evaporators, or a comparison of the chemistry to that of sugar sand. Although it has yet to be documented specifically, loose sugar sand is probably derived, at least in part, from broken particles of scale. The goal of this work was to investigate the chemical composition of the scale that is deposited on maple evaporator surfaces during sap processing. Knowing the chemical composition of scale produced in modern equipment and how it compares to previously published values for loose sugar sand may aid in understanding how best to remove these unwanted deposits.

METHODS - Maple syrup producers were solicited to participate in this project via an email notice to North American Maple Syrup Council members. Producers who responded to the solicitation were provided with sample containers, datasheets, and were instructed to collect samples of scale from the front and back pans of their evaporator. Producers were not issued explicit instructions as to a method of sample collection. Producers recorded the date of collection, syrup production at the date of sample collection, evaporator fuel used, type of pan, and any other relevant information about their operation. Samples and completed datasheets were shipped to the University of Vermont Proctor Maple Research Center in prepaid mailers.

Samples were prepared for analysis by rinsing the scale with deionized water to remove loose and embedded sugar, followed by filtering (Millipore 0.45 m). The water and dissolved constituents were discarded while the solid fraction was retained for analysis. Rinsing and filtering the scale proved problematic for some samples. Samples that could not be filtered were discarded. The remaining samples were dried, then digested with standard laboratory protocols and analyzed at the University of Vermont, Agricultural & Environmental Testing Lab in Burlington, Vermont. The concentration of inorganic mineral and metallic elements in each scale sample [Calcium (Ca), Phosphorous (P),



Potassium (K), Magnesium (Mg), Aluminum (Al), Iron (Fe), Manganese (Mn), Boron (B), Copper (Cu), Zinc (Zn) and Sulfur (S)] were determined by Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectrophotometry (ICP-AES).

RESULTS - The operations represented a diverse cross section relative to size of operation, sap collection methods and processing technology. The producers included operations ranging in size from 400 to nearly 60,000 taps. Samples were received from both bucket and tubing sap operations. Processing methods ranged from small, wood-fired evaporators boiling raw sap to large, oil-fired evaporators boiling highly-concentrated sap. Sugarmakers reported that samples provided generally represented a typical amount of buildup of scale, with a few reporting above (or below) average amounts. Some producers reported difficultly removing material from pans for samples.

Scale samples from the front and back pans of 17 maple syrup producers were analyzed for mineral and metal content. Six producers boiled concentrate and 11 boiled raw sap. Two producers reported collecting sap with buckets. The texture and consistency of samples varied from a nearly white sand to a dark, paste-like material (Figure 1). Scale samples similarly displayed a high degree of variability with respect to mineral and metal composition (Table 1).

By far the most abundant element was calcium (5.5-20.0%), followed by magnesium (0.61-2.73%) and phosphorus (0.74-2.13%). Manganese was the metal found in the highest concentration (0.90-2.80%). Aluminum, iron, and copper were present at roughly comparable levels. Zinc was intermediate. Potassium, sulfur, and boron were minor constituents.

In general, scale deposits from evaporators that processed sap concentrated with RO tended to have somewhat higher concentrations of minerals than the deposits from evaporators that processed raw sap. This is expected since these evaporators likely processed a greater volume of material overall than those processing raw sap. There were a few exceptions to this, however, and this may be related to the composition of collection and processing equipment used (as discussed below).

The concentration of some minerals and metals was higher than previously reported for loose sugar sand. Overall, the calcium concentration was higher in scale deposits than that which has been reported earlier for loose sugar sand (Davis et al. 1963). While Davis et al. (1963) reported similar levels of manganese and magnesium, the absolute concentration of manganese was higher in scale deposits than in loose sugar sand. Modern evaporators are constructed with stainless steel alloys that contain among other things, a size-able amount of manganese. The higher concentrations of manganese in scale deposits may be caused by a combination of sap boiling in these evaporators and by sugarmakers scraping pans to collect samples. A similar situation may explain the higher than previously published values for boron. The evaporators used when previous studies of sugar sand composition were conducted (Davis et al. 1963) were likely made from galvanized steel and tin.

The methods of collecting sap and producing syrup have undergone sub-

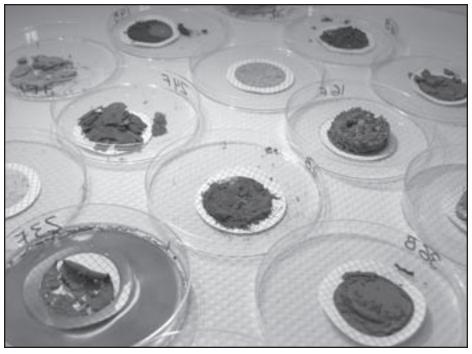


Figure 1: Examples of the texture and consistency of the solid fraction of maple syrup evaporator scale.

stantial changes in the last 50 years. The advent of vacuum extraction and membrane concentration of sap allow for greater yields and efficiency of maple operations. Although it appears high yield vacuum does not alter the mineral composition of maple sap (Wilmot et al. 2007), the composition of equipment (lead-containing buckets and evaporators for example) used to collect sap and produce maple syrup can have an impact on the finished product (Wilmot and Perkins 2000). It appears that operations that utilize bucket sap collection create scale deposits with higher zinc concentrations (Figure 2), probably derived from the zinc galvanizing in buckets. A similar result was observed for copper concentrations in scale samples collected from producers who used copper sap preheaters. Maple producers who reported using copper sap preheaters had higher copper concentrations in scale than those that did not employ this technology.

The results of this study suggest that the concentration of sap with RO technology may result in higher concentrations of select minerals in scale deposits. It is important to recognize however that the values reported here represent the concentration of various minerals remaining in the evaporator and do not necessarily reflect to the chemical composition of the finished syrup (Heiligmann et al. 2006). Considering that both loose sugar sand and scale are both formed during the boiling process, it is likely that they are made of the same constituents and therefore possess a similar chemistry.

		Back	Back Pan	Fron	Front Pan	Sugar sand ¹
		Concentrate	Raw Sap	Concentrate	Raw Sap	Raw Sap
Са	%	15.4 ± 4.4	5.5 ± 1.6	20.0 ± 2.4	11.3 ± 1.8	0.61 - 10.91
Р	%	0.90 ± 0.34	2.13 ± 0.54	1.85 ± 1.70	0.74 ± 0.24	0.03 - 1.18
K	%	0.12 ± 0.07	0.05 ± 0.01	0.07 ± 0.03	0.09 ± 0.01	0.15 - 0.38
Mg	%	2.73 ± 1.22	1.92 ± 0.64	0.61 ± 0.34	0.83 ± 0.34	0.01 - 0.19
Al	%	0.06 ± 0.02	0.13 ± 0.03	0.04 ± 0.01	0.04 ± 0.01	na
Fe	%	0.10 ± 0.07	0.26 ± 0.11	0.04 ± 0.02	0.09 ± 0.02	0.004 - 0.1
Mn	%	2.01 ± 0.78	2.80 ± 1.24	1.87 ± 1.17	0.90 ± 0.40	0.06 - 0.3
В	%	0.009 ± 0.002	0.018 ± 0.002	0.007 ± 0.002	0.012 ± 0.002	0.0003 - 0.002
Cu	%	0.05 ± 0.02	0.19 ± 0.07	0.02 ± 0.01	0.16 ± 0.11	na
Zn	%	0.10 ± 0.06	1.82 ± 0.81	0.07 ± 0.02	0.56 ± 0.30	na
\mathbf{N}	%	0.22 ± 0.04	0.23 ± 0.04	0.31 ± 0.05	0.21 ± 0.02	na

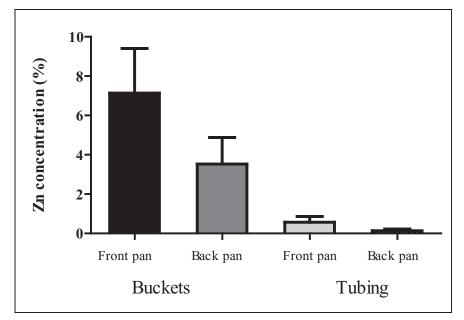


Figure 2: Zinc (Zn) concentration in mineral scale from evaporator pans (front and back) boiling sap collected with buckets and tubing. Values are means (+/-SE), N=2 for buckets, N=15 for tubing.

Effective syrup filtering and evaporator cleaning are key factors in producing a high quality product. Additional investigations that closely follow samples during processing as they transition from sap to syrup would be instructive in determining more precisely how collection and processing equipment influence the chemical composition of pure maple syrup.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - The authors thank the North American Maple Syrup Council for financial support of this project. The authors wish to thank the many maple producers who contributed samples for this work.

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The 2013 New York State Maple Producers Winter Conference

(A producer-focused conference)

January 4 and 5, 2013

January 4th and 5th NYS Maple Conference offers maple producers some great opportunities. The 2013 Maple Conference will be held in the same great location, the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School in Verona, New York on Friday evening January 4th and all day Saturday, January 5th. Opportunities include having access to the large trade show with many exhibitors displaying plenty of specialized equipment for meeting maple producer needs. You will have access to the latest in research and grower experiences regarding maple sap collection, syrup production, promotion, forest management and the making and marketing of a variety of maple products, 40 presentations scheduled. The Friday evening auction provides producers with the opportunity to sell excess equipment or supplies

as well as the chance to get a great buy on what others put up for sale.

The conference kicks off Friday evening with trade show at 5 and sessions at 5:30 PM followed by the third annual maple conference auction. The conference is open to the general public, as well as maple producers, and is geared to all levels of sugar makers. Saturday's trade show opens at 8:00 AM with workshops starting at 9:00AM. Held at the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill (V.V.S.) High School, Verona, New York, the conference is sponsored by the V.V.S. New York State FFA. Maple Producers Association and the Cornell Maple Program and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The V.V.S. High School is located between Utica and Syracuse, New York on State Route 31 just two minutes from NYS Thruway Exit 33. For additional information contact V.V.S. FFA advisor Keith Schiebel at kschiebel@vvsschools.org. Registration forms and schedule are available at the New York State Maple Producers Website: www.nysmaple.com or the Cornell Maple Program website: www.cornellmaple.com.



2012-13 New York Calendar of Upcoming Schools and Workshops

January 4-5 - New York State Maple Conference, Verona NY, Contact: Keith Schiebel; kschiebel@vvsschools.org or go to cornellmaple.com

January 12 - Western NY Maple School, Contact: Deb Welch, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County, 401 North Main Street, Warsaw NY 14569; 585-786-2251; djw275@cornell.edu

January 15 - Oswego County Maple School, Contact: JJ Schell, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oswego County, 3288 Main St., Mexico, NY 13114-3499; 315-963-7286; jjs69@cornell.edu

January 17 - Maple Production for the Beginner, Ontario County, **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 18 - Lewis County Maple Production for the Beginner, Contact:

Michele Ledoux, Cornell Cooperative Extension Lewis County, 5274 Outer Stowe Street, P.O. Box 72, Lowville, New York 13367; 315-376-5270; mel14@cornell.edu

January 19 - Lewis County Maple School, Contact: Michele Ledoux, Cornell Cooperative Extension Lewis County, 5274 Outer Stowe Street, P.O. Box 72, Lowville, New York 13367; 315-376-5270; mel14@cornell.edu

January 26 - Maple Expo- St. Lawrence County, Contact: Cornell Cooperative Extension, 1894 State Highway 68, Canton, NY 13617-1477; 315-379-9192.

January 29 - Maple Production for the Growing Maple Operation, Ontario County. 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

February 2 - Franklin County Maple School, **Contact:** Richard L. Gast, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Franklin County, 355 West Main St. -Suite 150, Malone, NY 12953, 518-483-7403, rlg24@cornell.edu





New store and distribution facility in Orleans, VT



Lapierre USA Orleana 303 Willoughby Ave (Rte 58)Orleans, VT. 05860 (I-01, exit 25) 02-370-4892 / 832-363-2210

Lapierre USA is proud to announce the opening of a new store and distribution facility in northeastern Vermont. The 16,000 sq. ft facility is located just minutes from I-91 at 303 Willoughby Ave in Orleans, VT. A well known location to local sugarmakers and the former location of Desmarais Equipment who sold tractors and snowmobiles among many other items.

Donald Lapierre, owner of Lapierre USA says "We need to expand to serve the growing needs of our customers. We had the option to expand our Swanton, VT facility but opted for a 2nd location. We feel that this will provide a better service to our existing and future clients. Less travelling means that they can spend more time in the sugarbush where it counts."

Karen Stanley will be managing this store. Karen is well known to sugarmakers and has been working with them at our Swanton, VT location for more than 5 years. With her experience and knowledge of our products and systems she is the ideal candidate for this new position. We wish her luck and success with this new promotion.

Bucky Shelton, who joined Laplerre USA in September, will be based out of this location as well. Bucky, from Glover, VT, is well known to sugarmakers all across the country. A sugarmaker himself for more than 34 years, he was a pioneer in introducing the cross-flow evaporator to the US market. He starting selling the Waterloo brand in 1980 and later in 1987 opened the Waterloo USA store. As a technical advisor, Bucky will be available to assist our current distributors and customers alike with all of their needs.





Along with Karen and Bucky, this location will have the complete support of the Lapierre USA service team. We are certain that the product choice and after sales service will be second to none providing essential services to our distributors and customers that only a fellow sugarmaker could understand. After all, Maple is our Business.

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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.

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Maple Syrup Digest

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December 2012

Mark Lupton, Huntsvill, ON Martin Collins, Putney, VT Mass Maple Producers, Plainfield, MA May Hill Maple/Evans Maple Products, Orwell, ME Mayotte Maple Products, East Fairfield, VT Mead's Maple Syrup, Canaan, CT Merck Forest & Farmland Center, Rupert, VT Merle Maple Farm, Attica, NY Michigan Maple Syrup Assoc., Shepherd, MI Milroy Farms, Salisbury, PA Minnestalgia Foods, LLC, McGregor, MN Moonlight Maple Co., Mt.Vernon, ME Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks, Montpelier, VT Mount Mansfield Maple Products, Colchester, VT Mount Pleasant Sugarworks, Leicester, VT Mountain Cider Co., LLC, N. Chittenden, VT Mt. Cube Farm, LLC, Orford, NH Mud Road Sugar House, Northville, NY Muscle in Your Arm Farm, Etna, NH Native Harvest, Callaway, MN Nelson Farms, Cazenovia, NY New Hampshire Maple Prod. Assoc., Loudon, NH New Milford Youth Agency, New Milford, CT Newhall Farm, LTD, Reading, VT New York State Maple Foundation Niese's Pure Maple Syrup, Putnam Valley, NY Nightingales Maple Farm, Amsterdam, NY Nokomis Inc., Trois-Pistoles, QC Norman's Sugar House, Woodstock, CT Norris Sugarworks, Starksboro, VT North Hadley Sugar Shack, Hadley, MA Northeast Maple Products, Derby Line, VT Northern Wisconsin Maid, Park Falls, WI Northfield MT Herman, Mt. Herman, MA Northwest Penn Maple, Meadville, PA Oak Lodge, Stahlstown, PA On the Lane Farm, N.Scituate, RI Orchard Hill Farm, So. Woodstock, VT Orwell Can Group, Orwell, VT Oswegatchie Educational Center, Croghan, NY Out on a Limb Farm, LLC, Wyoming, NY Paradise Grounds, LLC, Manilius, NY Paragus IT, Hadley, MA Passardi Maple Products, Willington, CT Patterson Farms, Inc., Chesterland, OH Paul Bunyan's Maple Syrup, Somerset, PA Peaceful Valley Maple Farm, Johnstown, NY Peter Casey, Columbia, CT

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NEW YORK STATE MAPLE PRODUCERS CONFERENCE

January 4 and 5, 2013 Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School, Verona, NY For more information contact: Keith Schiebel at kschiebel@vvsschools.org

VERMONT MAPLE CONFERENCES

Saturday, January 12, 2013 Union, High School, Middlebury, VT Saturday, January 19, 2013 Bellows Falls Union High School, Bellows Falls, VT Saturday, January 26, 2013 Lamoille Union High School, Hyde Park, VT For more information contact: www.vermontmaple.org

23rd ANNUAL HEBRON MAPLE FESTIVAL

March 9 & 10, 2013 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Blizzard Dates: March 16th & 17th Hebron, Connecticut, Route 66 & 85 contact: www.hebronmaplefest.com or E-mail: info @hebronmaplefest.com

27th WARKWORTH MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

March 9 & 10, 2011 Warkworth, Ontario, Canada Contact: Alice Potter Tel: 705-924-2057 Fax: 705-924-1673

NAMSC/IMSI ANNUAL MEETING

October 23-25, 2013 Delta, Beauséjour, Moncton, N.B. For further information, contact Yvon Poitras at yrp@nb.aibn.com



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