

2018 VERMONT MAPLE CONFERENCES

Event will feature 20 different classes

The 2018 Vermont Maple Conferences are right around the corner. The conferences are partnership between the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association and UVM Extension and are designed to address the needs of maple operations of all sizes.

This year's conferences will be held in Brattleboro at the School for International Training on January 20th and after a year's hiatus, in Hyde Park at Lamoille Union High School on January 27th. The conferences will feature a similar format with over twenty different classes spread across four class periods. This year's program will be roughly divided into 'subject tracks'. These tracks are designed to allow attendees the choice to focus on a particular subject throughout the day or mix and match classes from different tracks. The tracks include: Maple Production, Marketing/Business Management, Sugarbush Health & Climate Change and Maple Regulations. Some of the topics covered will include: Sustainable tapping guidelines, two classes on generating digital content and using social media (beginner and advanced), online marketing, maple business planning, issues related to current and potential threats to sugar maple as well as an update of completed and ongoing research at the UVM Proctor

Maple Research Center from Drs. Tim Perkins and Abby van den Berg.

A sampling of conference speakers includes: David Hall, one of 13 Quebec Federation Regional Directors, will be providing a summary of the Federations efforts at marketing the syrup made by its 13,500 producers in addition to the market outlook. Ryan Vazquez, the Program Director for Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) Cooperative Eradication Program based out of Worcester Massachusetts will present on the current status of ALB in the northeast and be available to answer questions related to the coordinated response to this threat. Also on the topic of threats to sugar maple, Josh Halman Forest Health Specialist with VT Department of Forest Parks and Recreation, will be providing an update on the current forest tent caterpillar outbreak in Vermont and resources available to producers.

There will be presentations on a project mapping the risk to the future of sugar maple, Kathy Hopkins, UMaine Extension will discuss what the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) means for producers and Julie Follensbee, VT Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Wetlands Ecologist will cover how Vermont wetlands regulations can impact maple



operations. Below is a list of the specific class titles.

- Maple Business Planning
- Federation Marketing
- What's up at PMRC?
- Sugar maple Risk Mapping
- Introduction to Digital Media
- Maple Industry Panel
- Biological/Environmental Controls of Sap flow
- FTC-Defoliation and results of spraying
- Intermediate/Advanced Digital Media
- Sugarhouse Discharge
- 8% vs High Brix
- Thinning in the sugarbush
- Welcoming the public
- Food safety plans
- Sustainable tapping guidelines
- Asian Longhorned Beetle
- Marketing online
- Sugaring operations and wetlands

- Bulk syrup issues
- FSMA and maple syrup production
- Running a producer coop

The schedule for the timing of classes and a complete list of class summaries will be available in the December issue of the Maple Mainline. Check the UVM Extension Maple Program webpage soon for a digital copy. In the meantime, you can see selected talks from the 2017 Vermont Maple Conference (Cultural Responses to Economic Change in the Maple Industry, Beginning Sugarmaking, Managing for a Healthy Sugarbush in a Changing Climate, Growth and Tree Rings: Responses of Northern Forest to Drought, Maple Industry Panel and What's a Sugarbush Worth?) by going to https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agriculture/maple_conference

Online registration will be handled by the VMSMA at www.vermontmaple.org/maple-conferences/

NORTH AMERICAN MAPLE SYRUP COUNCIL AND INTERNATIONAL MAPLE SYRUP INSTITUTE

Big plans for annual meetings

BY BARBARA MILLS LASSONDE
The Maple News

In October, 2018, the New Hampshire Maple Producers Association will be hosting the North American Maple Syrup Council and International Maple Syrup Institute annual meetings. At this convention, you're invited to attend the business meetings, which will bring you up to date on maple research and other advancements in the maple world. At the technical educational sessions, conducted by world experts, you'll learn new techniques to improve your operation and increase production.

There will also be maple syrup, cream and sugar competitions. Could yours be the world's best? If you enjoy photography, there will be a contest for that. Enter your best maple product or photo and see how you fare! This gathering also gives you the opportunity to meet other maple producers from around North America and learn from each other. Tours to fascinating places in the Granite State are being arranged, which will give you a glimpse into what these hardy folks contribute to society.

If you've never visited the "Live Free or Die" state, you're in for a pleasant surprise. You'll not only find friendly folks at every turn, but in only a couple of hours, you can drive from the historic seaport of Portsmouth to the foot of Mt. Washington, the highest summit in the Northeastern U.S. Here, you'll be surrounded by towering peaks in the heart of the White Mountains, once called "The Switzerland of America." Breathtaking views and spectacular autumn foliage will delight you along the way. You'll see clear, babbling brooks winding their way past granite boulders, only to plunge over cliffs, creating magnificent waterfalls.

New Hampshire is steeped in history, as one of the 13 original colonies, and the ninth state to ratify the Constitution. Learn about the state's history at the NH State House and NH Historical Society in Concord. See the famous Concord Coach, the stage coach that won the west, and visit Manchester, where the largest textile mill in the world operated. Check out the unusual inventory at one of the



ARMAND BOLDUC stands next to a 300-year-old maple being measured for size.

nation's oldest country stores in Moultonborough. Here, you'll find something unique to bring home.

New Hampshire is also home to the longest continually-run maple operation in the country. Since 1779, residents of what is now the Bolduc Farm in Gilford, have been making maple syrup and sugar every year and have the records to prove it. Some of the trees they are tapping today were tapped when George Washington was President—and they are enormous! One tree measures 16 ft. 8 in. in circumference and some of the crowns stretch skyward 70 to 80 feet and spread out approximately 90 feet.

Not all of these locations will be included in the tour, but you will be able to see them on your own. So, mark your calendar for October 26-29, and plan to join your maple friends in Concord, New Hampshire. It's the place to be seen in 2018! More information about this convention will soon be available at: nhmapleproducers.com. We'll be looking forward to seeing you there!

PLAN TO GO 2017 Kentucky-Virginia Maple Syrup School

When: December 9, 2017	12:00	Lunch
Where: Letcher County Ext. Service Office 478 Extension Drive, Whitesburg, KY 41858	12:45	PM Breakout Sessions
Registration fee: \$15.00		Grading, Filtering and Finishing / Bacteria and Production Forest Stewardship Plans and Cost Share
Agenda:		Managing the Sugar Bush
7:00 Doors Open	1:30	Repeat of above sessions
7:30 Registration and Pancake Breakfast	2:15	Vacuums and Reverse Osmosis
9:00 Welcome	2:35	Marketing Options
9:15 AM Breakout Sessions	3:00	Roundtable Question and Answer
Small Backyard Operations	3:30	Adjourn
Beyond the Bucket: Maple Line Options	3:30	Meeting of the Kentucky Maple Syrup Association
10:00 Break		Vendors: Leader Evaporator
10:15 Basic Regulatory Guidelines		
10:45 Value Added Maple Products		
11:35 Vendor Visits		

PLAN TO GO MMSA Annual Meeting Program

Where: Comfort Inn Mt. Pleasant, MI January 19-20, 2018	Ron Rhynard and Arnie Hammel 11:10-12:00 MMSA Business, Elections and Syrup Contest Winners Noon--1:00 Lunch
Friday	Afternoon Breakout Sessions:
5:30 Syrup must be turned in for judging	Room A
6:00-8:00pm Registration	1:00-1:45 Tubing Installation — Dale Forrester
6:00-9:30pm Vendor Area Open	2:00-2:45 Labeling/Marketing — Mary Fogel
6:30pm Syrup Judging Begins	3:00-3:45 R/O Operations — Kevin Lawyer
7:30-9:30pm Hors d'oeuvres	4:00-4:45 Filtering/Filter Press — Derrick and Mike Ross
8:00-8:45pm Round Table Sharing and Discussion: All things Maple	
8:50-9:30pm What's new on the Market—Equipment Manufacturers/Dealers	
Saturday	Room B
7:30-9:00am Registration- West (Main Entrance to conference center)	1:00-1:45 Beginning Maple— Kirk and Michelle Hedding
9:00 Welcome- Rooms A,B,C,D- Kirk Hedding, MMSA President	2:00-2:45 Signing up with the USDA
9:10-10:00 USDA/MSI- David Chapeskie	3:00-3:45 Maple Weekend
10:10-11:00 Shepherd Maple Festival-	4:00-4:45 End of the Season Cleaning