

MAPLE MAINLINE
WORLDWIDE

Maple Mainline

7KH 8QLYHUVLW\ RI 9HUPRQW ([WHQVLRQ \$GGLVRQ &RXQW\
0DSOH 6XJDUPDNHUV \$VVRFLDWLRQ DQG 9HUPRQW 0DSOH
6XJDU 0DNHUV† \$VVRFLDWLRQ DUH SOHDVHG WR RIIHU WK WK WK
DQQXDO 9HUPRQW 0DSOH &RQIHUHQFHV RQ 6DWXUGD\ -DQX
DU\ WK UG DQG WK 7KH FRQIHUHQFHV DUH HGX
FDWLRQDO PHHWLQJV KHOG IRU WKH SXUSR VH RI EULQJLQJ WKH
ODWHVW LQIRUPDWLRQ DQG UHVHDFK ILQGLQJV DERXW IRUHVV

**Maple Conference at Middlebury Union High School
Saturday, January 16, 2016**

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A Message From Matt Gordon, Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association Executive Director:

For the past number of years, VMSMA and UVM Extension have hosted two conferences in January for maple producers and the Addison County Maple Sugar Makers' Association hosts a third. As many of you know, these events are a great way to stay current on the latest research that is being conducted at the Proctor Maple Research Center and by other maple researchers, see how new equipment can assist with your business' efficiency, explore how marketing and value-added products can help diversify one's business, and learn how to be compliant with the evolving regulatory landscape at the state and federal levels.

At last year's conference in Bellows Falls, I know that many expressed dissatisfaction with the meal. I have been working with the school in an effort to provide a better quality meal.

As we move into 2016, we will have some changes with the organization of the conferences as Tim Wilmot is retiring. I know I speak for many in thanking Tim for all of the years of service to our industry and all of the hard work he put into making these conferences a tremendous success! Tim always made sure that these meetings ran smoothly, had a varied and interesting set of speakers, and offered a great value to those who attended. It certainly won't be easy for us to fill his shoes.

Like last year, if you are a VMSMA member in 2016, the registration fee for either the Bellows Falls or Hyde Park conference will be waived and any family members or i

Forest Pest News ~ Barbara Schultz, Forest Health Program Manager, VT Dept. Forests, Parks & Rec. Barbara will present an update on maple health and talk about various important forest pests including the current status of forest tent caterpillar (which may be on the way back), Asian longhorned beetle, and other maple health issues, as well as other forest pests that may affect your woodlot. She will also present information on Vermont's new firewood quarantine.

The Sweet Tree Operation ~ Joe Russo, Chief Operating Officer, Sweet Tree Holdings. Joe Russo will discuss this huge operation which is growing from 94,000 taps to 230,000 taps in 2016 and half a million taps in a few years. Joe will talk about running the operation, including discussing some of the many innovations that are in place or anticipated, and plans for the syrup. Come with your questions!
HYDE PARK ONLY.

Weather Forecasting for Maple Sugaring ~ Roger Hill, Vermont Weather Forecaster. Roger will present an overview of the forecast process, showing the usefulness of forecast modeling for sugaring operations, which require the evaluation of temperature, snow depth, soil moisture, sunshine and wind. Analysis of climatological conditions determined to be ideal for sugaring operations will also be shown along with syrup production data to support the climatological assessment.

Organic Maple Certification with Vermont Organic Farmers ~ Gregg Stevens, Vermont Organic Farmers Organic Certification Specialist. Learn what is involved in getting maple sap, syrup and value added products like maple cream and candy certified organic through Vermont Organic Farmers(VOF). Organic certification specialist Gregg Stevens will discuss the VOF guidelines for organic maple certification and what is involved in the certification process. Attendees will learn about the application process, record keeping requirements, what to expect during the annual onsite inspection and how to offset the costs of certification utilizinrtini0.00

3/16" Tubing? ~ Roundtable Discussion, Andy

**The University of Vermont
UVM Extension
327 RT 302, Suite 1
Barre, VT 05641**

2016 Maple Conference Information Inside

2015 Vermont Maple Health Highlights

Reported by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, November, 2015

Populations of the **Saddled Prominent** caterpillar increased statewide and defoliation was observed throughout the state. Nearly 13,000 acres of defoliation were mapped during aerial surveys, mostly in northeastern Vermont. In our annual Sugar Maple Health Survey, foliage was particularly dense this year, except in areas experiencing light defoliation by saddled prominent.

Sugarbushes should be monitored for this native insect in July and early August. Much of the early feeding occurs at the top of the tree, so listen for the raining of their droppings. The young caterpillars make “windows” in the leaves when they feed. Most caterpillars are predominantly green, with distinct markings on the head and “saddle.”

This is an insect to watch closely. Following the last outbreak (1979-81) hardwood decline was significant on some sites. Defoliation tends to start at upper elevations. If a ridge-top is infested, anticipate defoliation downslope in subsequent years. Outbreaks are unstable. Areas often sustain complete defoliation where no damage was observed the previous year, and infestations often collapse suddenly.

For assistance in identifying pests or on-site evaluations, or further details, contact the Forest Biology Lab at 802-879-5687 or your County Forester.