



# Maple Mainline

The University of Vermont Extension, Addison County Maple Sugarmakers Association and Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association are pleased to offer the 11th annual Vermont Maple Conferences on Saturday January 11th, 18th and 25th, 2014. The conferences are educational meetings held for the purpose of bringing the latest information and research findings about forest management, sap collection, syrup production, quality control, and marketing to sugarmakers in Vermont and surrounding regions. These all day meetings, which are designed to provide education for maple producers of all levels of skill and experience, are open to the public. Classes are taught by scientists, natural resource professionals and sugarmakers from around the state. Meetings also feature a trade show with vendors displaying maple related equipment and a lunch with a maple theme. These meetings are widely perceived to be among the best educational opportunities for sugarmak-

## A Message From Matt Gordon

Another season is coming right up, seemingly fast on the heels of what was a hugely productive 2013. Maple syrup production continues to grow in Vermont and elsewhere, and it is important that producers be kept informed of the latest maple research and developments. With this in mind, we hope you can attend one (or more) of the maple conferences. Two of these conferences are a joint effort, with Tim Wilmot of UVM Extension planning most of the classes, and with the VMSMA handling the logistics. The third conference is put on by the Addison County Maple Sugarmakers Association. The schedule is full of great seminars on all aspects of maple production, on woods management, as well as information that will help you plan your maple business for the future.

Considering the scale of the 2013 crop and that production is up everywhere, VMSMA is putting more resources into our marketing and promotion—seeking an ever-bigger impact beyond Vermont. To help fill the need for marketing classes, we are planning a workshop later 2014 to address the many issues associated with marketing maple syrup and value-added products. Look for more information in



practices, and collection and storage of sap, along with tools, building and equipment needs. Part I Facing and

Tubing-- Part 2 ~ Dan Crocker. In this presentation, Dan will share the methods and tools, some of which are unusual and even unique, that he uses for installing and maintaining vacuum tubing systems. A must for the inquisitive sugarmaker.

Instrumentation for Sugarmakers ~ Bob Crooks, Marcland Instruments. Bob Crooks will discuss the latest developments of his controls and accessories for maple production.

Vacuum Releaser Operation and Troubleshooting: Panel Discussion. Many producers report that their vacuum releaser is the most problematic piece of equipment in their vacuum system. Come listen to the tales of some veteran producers and join in the discussion of various release issues and how they can be dealt with.

RO: 16" Posts and High Efficiency Units ~ Daniel Lalaine, General Manager, CDL USA. A presentation about some of the latest innovations in maple RO technology.

Boiling Sap ~ Glen Goodrich, Washington County Sugarmaker. Learn the essentials of boiling from one of Vermont's most popular teachers: Glen will cover boiling for efficiency, for ease and for safety. He will discuss boiling raw sap, as well as boiling sap concentrated to different levels.

Filtering and Packing Syrup ~ Glen Goodrich Washington County Sugarmaker. A presentation about good filtering practice, and packaging syrup in containers from glass to barrels.

Business Planning and Processing Services: Introduction to the Vermont Food Venture Center ~ Connor Gorham and Annie Rowell – Venture Center Production Staff. In 2011 the Food Venture Center re-opened in Hardwick, and has been developing a suite of business, food safety and processing services which are available for producers of maple syrup and maple value-added products. Come learn more about our workshops, classes, and the filling and food service equipment available in our multi-use kitchens.

Tim Perkins, Director of the UVM Proctor Center, will discuss a new method for collecting maple sap.

### Daily Schedule For Middlebury High School—January 11

7:00 – 8:45 ~ Registration opens; Coffee and Donuts  
9:00 – 10:15 ~ Welcome (Auditorium) ~ State of the Industry Panel—Economics and Concerns about a Growing Industry.  
10:30 – 11:45 ~ Session I  
11:45 – 1:30 ~ Lunch & Trade Show  
1:30 – 2:45 ~ Session II  
3:00 – 4:15 ~ Session III  
Turn in evaluations; have a safe trip home.

Voluntary Sugarhouse Certification ~ Henry Marckres, VT Agency of Agriculture, Matt Gordon, VMSMA Executive Director, Kurt Kling and Tom Gadhue, Addison County Sugarmakers. Learn how to become certified, whether your operation is large or small. Henry and Matt will discuss the guidelines and criteria for certification. Kurt and Tom will offer input as to their experiences and what they had to do to meet the certification standards. Kurt has an established traditional operation and Tom's operation has been recently established.

Effective Tubing Design and Setup ~ J. R. Sloan, Green Mountain Mainlines. How to get the best out of your tubing set-up. From mainlines to drops, learn the best practices of how to set up an efficient tubing/vacuum system. Gets whether your woods are flat, steep or somewhere in between.

Remaking Maple – A Potential High Yield Method of Sap Collection ~ Dr. Tim Perkins, Director, UVM Proctor Maple Research Center. introduce a tool to help producers choose the approach that best fits their operation.

Development of high-yielding sugarbushes with traditional methods is both a long-term endeavor and fairly costly. This presentation will outline a new method of collecting sap that can be applied to both naturally regenerating dense maple stands as well as plantations of maple saplings that require less land and has yields greatly exceeding those possible with current methods. Beginning Sugarmakers ~ Bill Scott, FFA Emeritus. In this two-part session Bill Scott leads beginning sugarmakers from the tree to the sugarhouse, discussing tapping, tubing, filtering basics and other techniques. The second session reviews boiling techniques, best practices when it comes to drawing syrup off, filtering, grading and canning.

Growth Rates Of Trees Tapped With High-Yield Sap Collection Practices – Are Conservative Tapping Guidelines Sustainable? ~ Dr. Abby van den Berg, UVM Proctor Maple Research Center. Are existing tapping guidelines appropriate to use with current sap collection practices that enable the collection of much greater amounts of sap? This study examined the growth rates of trees from 18 sugarbushes that were tapped with high-yield sap collection practices, developed an interactive model of the tapping zone, and investigated whether the current Conservative Tapping Guidelines are appropriate to use with these practices. Filtering for a Good Product ~ Brad Gillilan – Leader Evaporator. Filtering is extremely important throughout the sugaring process. Whether filtering sap or syrup, learn what you need to do to make the highest quality final product for your buyers, be they consumers or packers. Brad will discuss the new clear filter press and have some demos.

New Grading System ~ Henry Marckers, VT Agency of Agriculture. A discussion of the new proposed system—what it means to sugarmakers, consumers and packers, and the reasoning behind the proposed change. What are the next steps in making the change? How it might affect syrup prices? Boiling 101 ~ Glenn Goodrich, Cabot Sugarmaker. Glenn will explore the best practices for boiling, no matter if you are the backyarder or a 50,000 tap operation, burning wood, or another fuel.

Maple Confections ~ Ruth Goodrich, Cabot Sugarmaker. Many producers sell their product in bulk, but there is a great market for value added products. Ruth will demonstrate some of the more interesting ways to use maple. Go beyond cream, candy and granulated sugar.

Is 3/16” Tubing the Answer to Vacuum Systems? – Roundtable Discussion ~ Andy Hutchison, Moderator. New experimentation shows great promise in getting vacuum without pumps when using 3/16” tubing. Sugarmakers Art Kruger and Miles Tudhope, each having very different sugarbushes, will discuss how the tubing worked from them. Tim Wilmot, UVM Extension, will speak about his research at the Proctor Center.

Replacement and Cleaning Effects on Sap Yield and Net Profit ~ Dr. Tim Perkins, Director, UVM Proctor Maple Research Center. This presentation will explore results of studies investigating the effects of different replacement and cleaning strategies on the amount of sap producers can expect to get out of their woods, as well as the projected net profits they can put in their pocket, based upon the strategy used, and will

Tim Wilmot  
UVM Extension Maple Specialist

Maple Conference at Middlebury Union High School

Saturday, January 11, 2014

~ Sponsored by the Addison County Sugarmakers Association ~

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Operation Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name(s) Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-Registration is \$35 per person if marked by Dec 27. \$45 per person at the door. Please Note Registration fee DOES include lunch. If you wish to just attend the meeting the cost is \$20 if pre-registered; \$30 at the door.

Number of attendees (meeting and lunch) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of attendees (meeting only) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to ACSMA. Return to Barb Rainville, Sec/Treas. ACSMA 598 Browns Rd, Lincoln, VT 05443. For more information contact: Moe Rheume ACSMA Pres, 802-352-4556 or Barb Rainville 802-453-5797.

To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Moe Rheume at 802-352-4556 by January 4, 2014 so we may assist you.

Date Received: ____/____/____	Amount Paid: _____	Check No: _____
-------------------------------	--------------------	-----------------

-----  
 Maple Conferences at Bellows Falls H.S., Saturday, Jan. 18  
 and Lamoille Union H.S., Hyde Park, Saturday Jan. 25, 2014  
 ~ Sponsored by UVM Extension and the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association ~

The University of Vermont  
UVM Extension  
617 Comstock Rd. Suite 5  
Berlin, VT 05602-9194

## 2014 Maple Conference Information Inside

2013 Vermont Maple Health Highlights

Reported by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, November, 2013

Populations of the Saddled Prominent