

Maple Mainline

Vermont Maple Conferences January 10, 17, 24

Over the last several years, the old traditional county maple schools have undergone numerous transformations. Efforts have always been aimed at bringing an improved, more comprehensive educational program to Vermont maple producers. Now sugarmakers themselves are assuming a much greater role in the development and production of these annual events.

The Maple Conferences are a series of educational meetings held around the state for the purpose of bringing the latest scientific and technological information to sugarmakers from Vermont and surrounding regions. The programs run all day and are open to the public. Topics include forest management, improved sap gathering techniques, syrup production, and marketing techniques. Classes are taught by scientists, maple specialists and sugarmakers from around the state. Meetings also feature a trade show with vendors displaying maple related equipment. These meetings are widely perceived to be among the best educational opportunities for sugarmakers in the US and Canada.

The 2009 schools are created and sponsored by UVM Extension and the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association (January 10th and 17th) and by the Addison County Maple Sugarmakers Association (January 24th). Look for many new topics, plus some old favorites, based on the needs expressed to us through your evaluations and inquiries.

Please Note:

As was true last year, the registration form in this newsletter has two parts. Please fill out the appropriate half, depending on whether you wish to attend the Jan. 24th meeting, or either the 10th or 17th meetings. Note that the meeting start times are different, that the checks are made out to different organizations, and the forms are sent to different addresses. Thank you!

Registration tables will be set up from 7:30 am through

noon, with coffee & donuts &/or pastries. The trade show will also be open at that time.

Sat., Jan. 10, Bellows Falls Union High School

Location: off US Rt. 5, just south of Bellows Falls.

Lunch will feature ham dinner with homemade casseroles, salad & desert by the Freshman class & parents.

Sat., Jan. 17, Lamoille Union High School, Hyde Park

Location: Side entrance to Lamoille Union High School, US Rt. 15 in Hyde Park. Lunch will be catered by the Culinary Arts program and will feature Maple Bourbon Roast Pork, with all the fixings.

Sat., Jan. 24, Middlebury Union H.S., Middlebury

Location: off US Rt. 7 just south of the village. Lunch will feature a roast turkey dinner with maple theme and all the fixings.

Pre-Registrations must be **postmarked** by: January 3 for all 3 schools. Thank You! Registrations received *by these dates* will be assured of a meal, if selected and paid for. Lunch for Walk-ins or registrations received *after these dates* will be served on a first come, first served basis. Please help us by registering early.

Special needs: If you require an accommodation to participate in this program, please notify our office at 802-888-4972 or 866-260-5603 (toll free, in-state only).

Please Note: All conference sites are on school property. A strict **NO SMOKING** policy must be followed.

You are welcome to attend all of the various meetings. We have developed a very inclusive agenda, with classes for all levels. We sincerely hope this program will be beneficial to you and your maple operation. **A drop box for conference evaluations will be provided as you exit.**

Shipping Your Products Through the US Postal Service ~ Members of the business development team for the USPS will provide a presentation on packaging your products, new “online discounts,” and information regarding Click n Ship—the avenue for printing your shipping label and paying for your postage online.

Your Maple Syrup: the Best That it Can Be! ~ Henry Marckres, chief of Consumer Protection for the VT Agency of Agriculture will provide a review of production, packing and storage methods to keep your product all that it can be. He will share thoughts and observations from 25 years of inspecting maple syrup that may help you avoid some common problems that could affect the quality of your products.

Develop and Maintain your Website to Sell Your Maple Products ~ Mindy Wren Barth, owner of Tirna Designs; Marcia Maynard, co-owner of Cabot Hill Maple; Catherine Stevens, VT Maple Syrup Marketing Director. Learn how to develop and/or maintain your website effectively in order to increase sales of your maple syrup and maple products. We will share tips, pitfalls to avoid and lots of ideas.

Effects of Reverse Osmosis on Maple Syrup Chemistry and Flavor ~ Dr. Abby van den Berg, UVM Proctor Maple Research Center. An experiment was conducted at the Proctor Center in which syrup was produced simultaneously from 4 levels of concentrate (2, 8, 12 and 15%) in identical evaporators. Results of analyses of chemical composition and flavor of the syrup will be presented.

Four evaporators boiling different levels of concentrate simultaneously at the Proctor Center.

Exotic Pests at our Doorstep: the Increased Threat of Asian Longhorned Beetle and Others ~ Ron Kelley, VT Dept. Forests, Parks & Recreation. The Asian Longhorned Beetle, a killer of sugar maple, is now only 45 miles from Vermont and the Emerald Ash Borer is even closer. What is the status of these pests, how to identify them, what is being done and what can you do to help? **Hyde Park Only.**

High Concentration of Sap Using RO. A panel discussion on methods and potential pitfalls of using Reverse Osmosis machines to concentrate sap to levels well above 8%. done aRlaD3MC /P ptT 0. panelu

"I Should Never Cut a Sugar Maple...True or False?" ~ Nate Fice, Bennington County Forester will discuss how developing a new sugarbush or maintaining an existing sugar maple stand requires active management. Sugarbush management is best accomplished through site evaluation, selecting the appropriate sugar maple "crop tree," applying harvesting techniques to increase tree vigor and sap production, and thinking about your maple stand long-term. **Bellows Falls Only.**

you an employ to help reduce the spread of these pests for the better health of Vermont Forests.

Tubing Setup ~ Glen Goodrich of Cabot will show you how, even though tubing looks easy, there is a right way and a wrong way. Learn the techniques in setting up a solid, workable mainline, creating drops and plotting out the line through the woods.

UVM Extension
29 Sunset Dr., STE 2
Morrisville, VT 05661

2009 ~ 3 Maple Conferences

Registration Inside

Vermont Maple Foundation News

Greetings to everybody in this sweet Vermont Maple Industry! What a wild ride this year has been! A good crop and record prices. On the promotional front, I believe it's important to continue doing the best job we can to make sure that consumers continue purchasing our maple products even though the prices are at record highs. Maple Open House Weekend is organized and ready to go. Our new maple map/directory is being distributed at all the Vermont Welcome Centers, by the Vermont Ski Area Association at many shows all over the USA and abroad, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce and the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing. Our shared website with VMSMA continues to get a record amount of activity. When you do a search for Vermont Maple Syrup www.vtmaple.org usually comes up on the first page! The other very exciting thing that we are currently working on is a new 100,000 sq ft sugarhouse which has just been ordered! We are replacing our 25 year old model that has served us very well for many years. We hope to have the new one ready to go by early spring 2009. Thanks for your support! We operate only on volunteer contributions from industry folks like yourselves! Thank you to all of the volunteers who have helped us during the past year on various projects.

Jacques Couture, President, VM

Maple School at Middlebury Union High School
Saturday, January 24, 2009
 Sponsored by the Addison Conty Sugarmakers Association

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

Pre-Registration is \$25 per person if postmarked by Jan 3, 2009; \$35 per person at the door. ~~Please Note: Registration fee DOES include lunch.~~

Number of attendees _____ x \$25.00 = _____
 (meeting and lunch)
 Number of attendees _____ x \$15.00 = _____
 (meeting ONLY)
 Total Enclosed = _____

Make checks payable to: ACMSA
 Mail to: Barbara Rainville, Sec/Treas. ACMSA
 598 Browns Rd
 Lincoln, VT 05443

Date Received: ____/____/____	Amount Paid: _____	Check No: _____
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Maple Schools at Bellows Falls H.S. Saturday January 10, 2009
Lamoille Union H.S., Hyde Park Saturday, January 17, 2009

~ Sponsored by UVM Extension and the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association ~

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ - _____ - _____
 Email: _____

Please Circle the site(s) you wish to attend:

Bellows Falls ~ 1/10 Name(s) Attending: _____
 Hyde Park ~ 1/17 Name(s) Attending: _____

Pre-Registration is \$20 per person if postmarked by Jan 3, 2009; \$30 per person at the door. \$5 discount for current FFA/4H member/youth (under 18). Lunch is \$5. ~~Please Note: Registration fee DOES NOT include lunch.~~

Make checks payable to: VMSMA Mail to: VMSMA, c/o Mary Croft, 491 East Barnard Road,
 So. Royalton, VT 05068

Number of adults _____ x \$20.00 = _____
 Number of youth _____ x \$15.00 = _____
 Number of meals _____ x \$15.00 = _____
 Total Enclosed = _____

Credit Cards accepted. Provide information below:
 CC # _____
 CIV # _____ (last 3 numbers on back of card)
 Circle Type VISA / MC only
 Exp. Date: ____/____/____
 Signature: _____

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