

Maple Mainline

The University of Vermont Extension, Addison County Maple Sugarmakers Association and Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association are pleased to offer the 12th annual Vermont Maple Conferences on Saturday January 3rd, 17th and 24th, 2015. 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 sugarmakers in the US and Canada.

Please Note:

The enclosed registration form has two parts. Please fill out the appropriate half, depending on whether you wish to attend the Jan. 17th meeting, or either the Jan. 3rd or 24th meetings. Note that the meeting day schedules are different, that the checks are made out to different organizations, and the forms are sent to different addresses. Attendees have the option to register and pay online for the Bellows Falls and Hyde Park Conferences at <http://vermontmaple.org/vermont-maple-conferences/>
VMSMA Members will receive free registration at either the Bellows Falls or Hyde Park Conference if registrations are posted by December 18th (BF) or January 12th (HP), and non-VMSMA employees and family will received a discounted rate if registering on the same form..

Sat., Jan. 3rd, Bellows Falls Union High School

Location: off US Rt. 5, just south of Bellows Falls.
Lunch will feature maple cured baked ham with all the fixings.

Sat., Jan. 17, Middlebury Union H.S., Middlebury

Location: off US Rt. 7 just south of the village. Lunch will feature roast pork with all the fixings with vegetarian option.

Sat., Jan 24, Lamoille Union High School, Hyde Park

Location: West 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.

Pre-Registrations must be **postmarked** by: December 18 (Bellows Falls), January 10th (Middlebury) and January 12th (Hyde Park). Thank You! Registrations postmarked *by these dates* will be assured of a meal, if selected and paid for. Lunch for walk-ins or registrations postmarked *after these dates* will be served on a first come, first served basis. Please help us by registering early.

If you require a disability-related accommodation to

A Message From Matt Gordon, Vermont Executive Director
 Maple Sugar Makers' Association
 Daily Schedule for Bellows Falls and Lamoille Union H.S. —Jan 3 & 24

2014 was predicted by many to be a down year when we were in the midst of a long, cold winter and spring. In the end, Vermont overall had a very good year, a testament to the hard work, expansion, and modernization we see every day. One element of that continued success is the access to information through events like our Maple Conferences.

- 7:30 ~ Registration opens; Coffee and Donuts
- 8:30 – 10:10 ~ Markets, Marketing, and Vermont Maple in 2015.
- 10:20 – 11:10 ~ Session II
- 11:20 – 12:10 ~ Session III
- 12:10 – 1:30 ~ Lunch
- 1:40 – 2:30 ~ Session IV
- 2:40 ~ Session V

VMSMA, in conjunction with UVM Extension, is again offering two conferences to bring you the latest information on maple research, production methods, and marketing syrup. Like the past few years, these are being held in Bellows Falls and Hyde Park. A third conference, sponsored by the Addison County Sugarmakers Association, is being held in Middlebury.

If you are a VMSMA member in 2015, the registration fee for either the Bellows Falls or Hyde Park conference will be waived and any family members or employees are eligible to register for a discounted rate. The schedule for all three conferences are full of great seminars, including information on where the industry is currently positioned with the synchronized grading standards.

VMSMA had a busy 2014 and is looking forward to some exciting projects in the year, and years, ahead. We are continuing our efforts to protect the use of the word maple as a designation on food products by working with both state and federal regulators but also working to change consumer preference. We firmly believe that such practices must stop and that maple must not become another generic flavor attached to food products. We are also planning to launch an effort to reinvigorate the VMSMA and our partner organizations promote the brand Vermont Maple Syrup. With the introduction of our new grading system and growing interest in pure maple syrup, now is the perfect time to be revitalizing our collective promotional materials, packaging, and branding for Pure Vermont Maple Syrup.

Good luck in 2015 and happy sugaring!

Matt Gordon

CONCURRENT SESSIONS AT BELLOWS FALLS AND HYDE PARK:

of even-aged, and uneven-aged management; as well as harvest operations and contracts

The Challenges And Opportunities Of Opening A Retail Business In New York City~ Mark Hastings Windham County Sugarmaker. After buying the old VMSMA mobile sugarhouse, Mark Hastings set up a roadside farm stand at exit 1 in Brattleboro. That business took him to opening up a maple focused farm store and soda fountain on one of the trendiest streets in Brooklyn, NY. Mark will present that journey as he tapped into the "Know your Farmer" movement running through the food world.

Use Value Appraisal (UVA) Standards for Sugarbush Health: Nancy Patch, Franklin-Grand Isle County Forester with VT Forests, Parks & Recreation. The UVA program recognizes the unique management aspects of a sugarbush to maintain their health and productivity. Learn how to recognize a healthy bush, and how to minimize stress keeping the forest healthy for the long term.

An Inside Look at Maple Finances
Mark Cannella/Betsy Miller, UVM Extension.

The Maple Business Benchmark has completed one year of detailed financial analysis with Vermont

Effects Of Tubing Cleaning Practices On Sap Yields ~ Dr. Abby Van Den Berg, Proctor Maple Research Center. Which tubing cleaning practice results in the most improved sap yields, at the lowest cost? And does any practice improve yields as much as replacing spouts or droplines? This presentation will discuss the results of research on the effects of tubing sanitation and spout/tubing replacement practices on sap yields, and the relative costs of each strategy.

Recent Studies to Improve Vacuum in Tubing Systems ~ Dr. Tim Perkins, Director, UVM Proctor Maple Research Center. Sap flow from maple trees is greatly enhanced by vacuum, with yield increasing approximately 5-7% with each inch of vacuum added. Several studies at the Proctor Center conducted over the past five years have investigated possible methods to improve vacuum transfer in maple pipeline collection systems. This presentation will summarize the results of these projects.

Sap Flow and Sap Sweetness - How, Why and What Influences Them? ~ Dr. Tim Perkins, Director, UVM Proctor Maple Research Center. Maple producers rely greatly upon the development of pressure in maple trees to produce sweet sap to harvest. This presentation will explain the phenomenon of sap flow as well as the various factors that influence flow and yield as well as sap sugar content both before and during the spring season.

Sugarbush Management Techniques ~ Nancy Patch, Franklin Grand Isle County Forester. A description of forest management techniques apply to sugarbushes, including tending the forests, the use

3/16" Gravity tubing for beginners ~ Tim Wilmot,
UVM Extension. A hands-on demonstration of the

more profitable and productive manner. This session highlights a wide variety of steps you can take to increase your bottom line from sugarbush management, sap collection and processing, and marketing of the final products.

Sap Tracking ~ Nick Atherton, CDL. Do you know what's going on in your woods? New sap tracking technology allows you to "see" into the woods from the house, car, or even in bed! Nick Atherton will present innovative systems - GPS programs, vacuum monitoring and tank sensors that can take the sleepless nights and long drives into the woods out of your sugaring operation.

How Do You Boil? ~ Representatives from Dominion & Grimm. Boiling with oil, wood, used cooking oil? A representative from D & G will discuss boiling with electricity as it compares to using other methods. Find out you can boil with the sun!

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3/16" Tubing? A Roundtable Discussion ~ Andy Hutchison, Moderator. Several years of use have shown great promise in ~~ting~~ getting good vacuum without the equipment when using 3/16" tubing. The roundtable discussion will help answer questions and cover issues when using 3/16" tubing.

Techniques for the Beginning and Backyard Sugarmaker ~ George Cook, UVM Extension Maple Specialist. A 2 hour presentation Part 1 will cover topics from identifying the crop trees in the woods to the selection of fuel to fire the arch. In the mix, you'll find sugarbush management, tapping practices, and collection and storage of sap, along with tools, building and equipment needs. Part II will cover the evaporation and processing of sap to the final finishing of maple syrup, including filtering, grading and packing and a discussion of off-flavors

Maple Conference at Middlebury Union High School
 Saturday, January 17, 2015
 ~ Sponsored by the Addison County Sugarmakers Association ~

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

Pre-Registration is \$25 per person if postmarked by Jan 10 \$35 per person at the door. Please Note Registration fee DOES include lunch. If you wish to just attend the meeting the cost is \$10 if pre-registered; \$20 at the door.

Number of attendees (meeting and lunch) _____ x \$25.00 = _____
 Number of attendees (meeting only) _____ x \$10.00 = _____
 Total Payable to: 9-5.9(_p).9()-6(_)-ra

The University of Vermont
UVM Extension
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