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Maple Producer's Winter Conference

January 7 & 8, 2011

Held At: Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School in Verona, New York

On behalf of the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill FFA, I cordially invite you to the 16th Annual Maple Producer's Winter Conference. The conference is scheduled for January 7th and 8th, 2011 at the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill (V.V.S.) High School, Verona, New York.

More than ever before!

Last year, nearly 600 people attend the show with 35 of the top maple presenters in North America, 32 workshops, and 35 of the industry's best manufactures, dealers, and vendors with 62 tables of maple supplies and equipment!

Great time to be a Maple Producer!

With a growing maple industry and emphasis on maple production, many producers are experiencing increased sales of maple syrup. What better place to learn about this industry then one of the largest maple conferences dedicated exclusively to maple??!

Friday Night format awesome!

More than 250 people attended again last year at the Friday Night Trade Show and guest speaker; this year's presentation will be at 7:00 PM with the Maple Trade Show open from 6:00 PM



until 9:00 PM. Continued This Year – **Friday Night Maple Auction!**

More than \$2,000 of equipment and supplies were sold at last year's auction! We plan to start the auction at 8:00 PM or right after the Friday night speaker. Bring your used or even new maple equipment and place it in Friday night's auction. To register maple items for the auction, write out a description of the equipment and return to us by December 17th. Information on auction items will be made available via email request after December 28th. Auction service fee will be 10% of auction price paid by seller. You **MUST BE REGISTERED FOR**

Continued on page 3

New York State
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Upcoming Maple Schools & Workshops

2010

December 2.....Cornell Maple Webinar, 7pm—"Improving Maple Grading", Presented by Brian Chabot
www.cornellmaple.com

December 4.....Beginner Maple Workshop - Cayuga County
Contact: Dan Welch, CCE Cayuga County, 248 Grant Ave., Auburn, NY 13021, 315-255-1183

2011

January 7-8.....New York State Maple Conference in Verona, NY
Contact: Keith Schiebel kschiebel@vsschools.org or go to cornellmaple.com

January 15.....Western NY Maple School—Wyoming County
Contact: Lutie Batt, CCE, Warsaw, NY, 585-786-2251

January 20.....Beginner Maple School—Ontario County
Contact: Russell Welser, CCE, Canandaigua, 585-394-3977, e-mail rw43@comell.edu

January 22.....Maple School—Lewis County
Contact: Michele Ledoux, CCE, Lowville, 315-376-5270

January 29Maple Expo—St. Lawrence County
Contact: Steve VanderMark, CCE, Canton, 315-379-9192, e-mail: sfvl@cornell.edu

February 3.....Maple School—Ontario County
Contact: Russell Welser, CCE, Canandaigua, NY, 585-394-3977, e-mail rw43@comell.edu

February 5.....Maple School—Warren Washington County
Contact: Laurel R. Gailor, CCE, Warrensburg, NY, 518-623-3291, e-mail: lrg6@comell.edu

February 12.....Maple School—Greene County
Contact: Mick Bessire, CCE, Acra, NY, (518) 622-9820

February 19.....Maple School—Oswego County
Contact: JJ Schell, CCE, Mexico, NY, 315-963-7286, e-mail: jjs69@cornell.edu

February 26.....Beginner Maple Workshop at Hamley Maple
Contact: Brett Chedzoy, CCE - Schuyler County, Senior Resource Educator, office: 607-535-7161, cell: 607-742-3657, bjc226@cornell.edu



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The
PIPELINE

Fall 2010

**FRIDAY NIGHT OF THE
CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO BE
ADMITTED TO THE AUCTION!**

Please consider selling a piece of equipment in this year's auction.

For individuals requiring lodging, reservations for overnight accommodations may be made at Hotel at Vernon Downs, Route 31, Vernon **(315) 829-3400**. (WHEN REGISTERING AT THE HOTEL, PLEASE MENTION THE MAPLE CONFERENCE TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL CONFERENCE RATE OF ONLY \$69!) The V.V.S. High School is located between Utica and Syracuse on State Route 31. From State Route 5 in Vernon, take State Route 31 West. From Oneida or Rome, take State Route 365 to State Route 31 East. Just two minutes from NYS Thruway Exit 33, the ideal central location of the school is easily accessible.

**Plan Now to Attend –
Pre-registration deadline is
December 15th**

Advanced registration is \$13 for Friday night only, \$25 for Saturday only, or \$34 for both Friday and Saturday. Registration includes admittance to trade show and all workshops and light meal Friday evening and Saturday continental breakfast, and all-you-can-eat luncheon buffet. No confirmation will be mailed and no refunds of pre-registrations. Receipts are available at conference registration. Please make checks payable to: "V.V.S. FFA". We look forward to another great maple conference.

Sincerely,

Keith Schiebel

Conference Trade Show
Coordinator



A Message From Our President

Fellow Producers,

I hope everybody had a strong fall season. Our on-farm sales and volume at fairs and festivals was greater than ever. Everywhere we went

throughout the northeast, we found that consumers are now really interested in pure New York maple products and in having a personal connection with "their" maple producer.

The Association's summer was capped-off, once again, by another record-breaking sales year at the State Fair. Thanks to the Maple Center's manager Dave Schiek, his staff, and all the volunteers who helped make this possible.

Congratulations to Steve Childs on his selection for the 2010 Golden Maple Leaf Award from the International Maple Syrup Institute. Steve was honored at the IMSI banquet in Ontario in Oct. He was recognized for his work on meeting producers' needs for more information on value-added maple products.

The USDA Specialty Crops Block Grants were awarded earlier this fall and the NYSMPA received \$40,000. These funds will enable the Association to update its website to give it a new, fresh look and make it more easily navigated. The re-design will allow for improved consumer access to the producer contact information and sugarhouse location map sections of the site. Our contractor for the project is Pinckney Hugo in Syracuse – the same folks that helped develop the industry's Taste the Tradition™ brand.

The Ag & Markets special on-time maple promotions budget is still being negotiated. We expect that the focus of these new funds will be on an awareness campaign for pure New York Maple Syrup under the Taste the Tradition™ brand. One initiative that we hope will be included is radio advertising which, in the past, has always proven to be the most cost effective media. We know that members are looking for reprints of the recipe cards and other out-of-stock materials; and we are trying to also get these included in this campaign.

Plans for the 2011 Maple Weekend are being finalized. Past participants should have received a sign-up the form in the mail. If you are interested in getting involved this year, and didn't receive a form, call the Association office. We're also looking forward to the Winter Conference in Verona Jan. 7-8. Cornell University, VVS FFA, and other key organizers are already hard at work on the program details. I'm sure it will be as good and as big as ever.

Here at our farm we are already filling Christmas orders and making plans for the 2011 tapping season. It will be here before we know it!

David I. Campbell

NYSMPA President

Greetings From Your *Maple Queen*

Hello again! I have had a great summer representing you as the New York State Maple Queen. I started out attending the Norwich Dairy Days, where I rode in the parade and helped at the booth. Next on the list was hosting a Maple Royalty camp. We toured around the Finger Lakes visiting the Day Brothers and Dave Sheik's sugarhouses as well as the technology farm and research center. Then I took the crown over seas to Spain, France and Italy. I introduced maple to a home stay family in Spain, and after trying it, said "Muy Dulce!" (very sweet). I had a tough time trying to tell them that it came from a tree without fruit. I came home and started right off again going to the Chautauqua County Fair and the St. Lawrence County Fair. I also attended the Empire Farm Days for two days which I had a published interview with the NorthEastern Farming magazine. Then I went to the Canandaigua pageant of steam where I road on a frick in the parade. I attended my own county parade where I met Senator Nozzolio and Congressman Maffei. I also attended the Wyoming County fair and Erie County Fair.

I spent 8 days at the state fair, including a day to help set up. While at the state fair I welcomed the governor into the fair and gave him a maple milkshake at the pride of New York booth. I also met and fed Adam Richmond from the television show Man vs. Food. I also cooked at the Wegmans kitchen which I educated over 150 people on the production and use of maple.

My next events were going to the Western New York pageant of steam and the Hammond fair. Next I went to the Macedon center lumberjack festival. Then I attended the New York State and Western New York maple producers meeting where I presented a speech on what I have done so far. I then attended the Genesee country agricultural society fair and the Letchworth craft fair. You can see me on Senator Nozzolios website and facebook page and Governor Paterson's website.

I have traveled 4779 miles so far and have enjoyed every minute of it. I have several upcoming events and if you would like me to come to anything feel free to contact me!

Caitlyn Pile

New York State Maple Queen



Maple Apple Sweet Potatoes

This is a recipe that I found off a sweet potato can that I sweetened up a bit with maple. I thought this recipe would be perfect with it being the end of fall and the holiday season.

Ingredients:

- 40oz can cut Sweet Potatoes
- 1/3 cup Apple Juice
- 3 tbsp Maple Sugar
- 1/4 cup Pure Maple Syrup
- 2 tbsp Dark Molasses
- 1/4 tsp Allspice
- 1 tsp Cinnamon
- 1 Slice Apple

Directions:

Set over at 375°F. Combine all ingredients together. Bake in a dish covered with aluminum foil for 20 minutes. Turn potatoes and apples over and bake for another 20 minutes. Enjoy!



“Improving Maple Grading” Maple Webinar

Cornell Maple Program Invites Your Participation in Last Webinar of the 2010 Maple Webinar Series

The Cornell Maple Program has been providing webinars on the first Thursday of the month beginning in August and going through until December from 7 to 8 pm. Extension educators and maple producers can participate in the webinar through hosting as a group site or as individuals. A webinar link is available at www.CornellMaple.com.

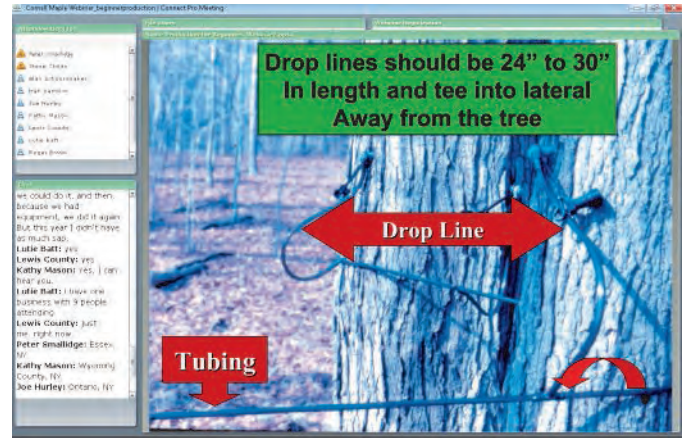
The next webinar will take place on December 2nd, from 7 to 8 pm. The topic will be “Improving Maple Grading” presented by Brian Chabot.

Participants need to have an internet web browser and a high-speed internet connection. If you do not have access to a high-speed internet connection the webinar will not work and you will need to join one of the group host sites listed on the webinar webpage. Participation in each webinar is available on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are particularly interested in a webinar topic, please plan to connect at least 20 minutes prior to the start time. Before each webinar, participants will be asked to register into a database so we can monitor the value of the webinars and their geographic extent. No pre-registration is required.

The interactive nature of the webinar is the opportunity to ask questions of the presenter in a real time venue. No additional hardware is required. Virtually all current computers already have a Flash player installed, which is used by the web conferencing software. Access to the web site that hosts the internet seminars is free of charge. Your standard Internet connection charges would still apply. Group host sites may have a registration fee. We are not able to assist users with problems they may have with their computer, connections, or connection speed.

Past Webinars Archived

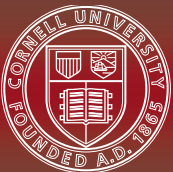
Past webinars have been archived and are available for viewing at www.CornellMaple.com. Click on the maple webinars choice. Next select “Scheduled and saved past conferences” then click on view.



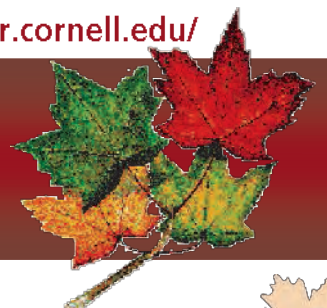
Pictured above is a screen snap shot of the “**Maple Production for the Beginner**” webinar held in September, which is available for viewing on the website.

- “The latest in maple tubing research and tap hole sanitation”, presented by Stephen Childs.
- “Maple Production for the Beginner”, presented by Stephen Childs.
- “Sugarbush management and thinning”, presented by the New York State Extension Forester, Peter Smallidge.
- “Leasing taps, buying and selling sap”, presented by the Director of the Uihlein Forest, Mike Farrell.

<http://maple.dnr.cornell.edu/>



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension



Evaluating Sugarbush Recovery from 2010 Frost Damage

Source: Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation; September 2010 (Reprinted with Permission)

Damage to sugar maple foliage was widespread in 2010, due to below-freezing temperatures in early May. Pear thrips feeding often added to the damage. In some affected areas, trees never fully refoliated, and had small, sparse leaves all summer.

Expected Impact

Whenever leaf area is reduced by more than 30%, we expect health impacts. If trees refoliate, however, they can recover quickly from a single May defoliation.

If they don't refoliate fully, foliage is compromised for an entire growing season, and trees are at risk. Food reserves may be depleted, leading to dieback and mortality. Maple declines initiated in this way include dieback in Vermont in the early 1980's when frost and forest tent caterpillar defoliation occurred in the same year, and maple blight in the Midwest in the 1950's when defoliation by leaf rollers was followed by maple webworm.

Sugar maples have been in generally good health because of several years with ample precipitation and without major pest problems. With no additional stresses, recovery is likely, with higher odds of quick recovery on nutrient-rich sites and in regions of the state which had more consistent rainfall in 2010.

However, the impact of this year's damage won't go away instantly. Carbohydrate reserves are reduced. Fewer leaves will be produced in 2011, limiting next year's food production. With lower food reserves, trees won't close tapholes as quickly, and won't compartmentalize discolored wood as well as normal. Additional stress from weather, forest pests, or human causes could easily initiate maple decline and mortality.

Sugarbush Recommendations

Assess tree condition before leaves drop. Evaluate trees up and down the slope, as severity of damage was often determined by elevation. Check for sparse foliage and noticeably small leaves. Tap



Sugar maple in frost damaged areas, September 2010. Tree health is at risk when foliage has been sparse for an entire growing season.

trees with foliage damage conservatively in 2011.

Monitor tree condition in summer, 2011. If trees have symptoms of decline or have been subject to additional stress (such as drought, defoliation, or stem wounds) their health is in jeopardy. These trees should be reserved from tapping in 2012.

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A Message From the **NAMSC/IMSI**

North American Maple Syrup Council (NAMSC) / International Maple Syrup Institute (IMSI)



I am pleased to provide this report of activities completed during the Stratford, Ontario, Canada 51st meeting of the North American Maple Syrup Council (NAMSC) held in tandem with the 36th meeting of the International Maple Syrup Institute (IMSI). The meetings were hosted by the Ontario Maple Producers Association and held at the Arden Park Conference Center from October 19-23, 2010.

There were several highlights of the meetings and as usual, the six days we spent in Stratford, Ontario could have been shortened to three. But our time was fully spent on maple and I'm beginning to feel that indeed we will see an "international grade standard" in the near future. The IMSI is already "there" having garnered consensus at the Bar Harbor and Croghan meetings last year. The NAMSC did not discuss the proposal formally, although it was a hot topic in

committee and during informal sessions. Essentially the feature of the standardized maple grade proposal includes a definition of Pure Maple Syrup with two grades: Grade A with four color classes and a Processing Grade. Grade A is proposed to be broken along degrees of light transmittance from: 75%Tc and above; 75-50%Tc; 50-25%Tc; and, below 25%Tc. Flavor descriptors are still being argued but are presented as Golden, Amber, Dark, and Very Dark respectively. (I was the lone holdout for a Grade B descriptor) There seemed to be fairly positive agreement (pending US and Canadian governmental regulatory approval) that these new standards could be implemented as early as 2013.

The technical sessions were among the best I have heard over the last twenty two years. One of the very best was a major presentation by Steve Childs who

delivered "Development of Value-Added Maple Products". He spoke to a full house and spent considerable time afterwards addressing questions from a wide range of producers and researchers. New York research efforts were well recognized at this international meeting where 26 technical session authors presented their findings. Of those only two US research institutions presented: Childs and Farrell from Cornell and Perkins and MacMillan from U. Vermont and Vermont Agency of Agriculture. All other papers were delivered by Canadian institutions. New and innovative work is coming out of the Canadian Forest Natural Products laboratory of Dr. Abou-Zaidi in Sault St Marie, Western Ontario. Additionally, Laval University and Centre Acer are major contributors to the maple research initiatives. Several of these papers have been or are supported by the NAMSC Research Fund and should over time bring progressive change and a return on our investment for commodity based research.

The IMSI considered several issues that are of concern for the industry: -- the Pinnacle Foods release of "all natural log cabin syrup" in a Sugarhill similar jug (with 4% maple syrup) is being addressed by State, Provincial, and Federal regulators and legal consultants from all sides; --there is an increasing concern over the possible presence of sulfites in finished maple products. Several



Steve Childs earned the IMSI's highest award, the Golden Maple Leaf Award.

test programs are being developed by Centre Acer and the Proctor Maple Center to research this consumer concern. Both institutions may be soliciting samples from a broad geographic area for testing. — IMSI as well as NAMSC committees are working to analyze research findings to develop guidelines for using air injection technology when finishing syrup.

The NAMSC spent a substantial portion of their working sessions hearing committee reports from the groups leading the American Maple Museum in Croghan, New York; Convention Planning; the *Maple Digest*; Finance as well as other ongoing programs and initiatives. ByLaws, Strategic Planning, Job Description and Committee Guidelines work is tedious but

necessary in organizations representing more than 15,000 producer members. I requested and we were awarded host status for the 2021 NAMSC/IMSI Convention. That isn't a misprint—the meeting is eleven years out! Dues for the NAMSC were hotly discussed and will increase for next year. The nominal increase coupled with the resolution that all states and provinces will compensate the Council equally should bring the organization out of the red and over to the black side of the ledger.

Finally, I am very pleased to report the elevation of Roger Sage to Life Membership in the North American Council. There are currently only 29 life member of the Council, the last two of which hail from New York. Warren Wells was elected in 2009 and now Roger this

year. Steve Childs won and earned the IMSI's highest award, the Golden Maple Leaf Award for innovation and information transfer in the area of value added maple products. These are impressive recognitions and even more so when one reviews the list of past recipients.

I appreciated the opportunity to represent New York Maple Producers as delegate to both the North American Council and the Institute. I solicit your questions and would be happy to discuss the meetings in any forum you suggest. As always, I invite your comments, suggestions, ideas and input for positive change.

Eric Randall

NAMSC/IMSI Delegate

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Regional Associations

Calendar of Events

December 2010

2 **Farm Viability Partner's Summit**
9:30PM *Justin's Grill, Syracuse*

3 **St. Lawrence Wine & Craft Fair**
Cheel Arena, Potsdam

7 **St. Lawrence Meeting**
7:00PM *Learning Farm, Canton*

7 **Maple Museum Board Meeting**
Croghan, NY

January 2011

4 **St. Lawrence Association Meeting**
7:00PM *Learning Farm, Canton*

27 **Maple Museum Harvest Dinner**
4:30-7:30PM *Croghan, NY*

February

1 **St. Lawrence Association Meeting**
7:00PM *Learning Farm, Canton*

May

21 **Maple Museum Opening with Maple Queen Contest and Hall of Farm Induction**
Croghan, NY

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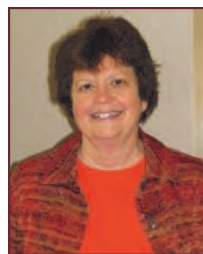
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Maple Nuggets

One cup maple syrup, 1 tablespoon butter, 1-1/2 cups puffed rice. Boil until it forms a softball in water. Remove from fire, add butter and beat until it begins to thicken; add puffed rice, crisped over heat. Mix thoroughly, drop on waxed paper.

Source: WNYMPA 1952 Edition

Behind the Scenes



Notes from the
NYSMPA office

Fellow Producers,

Let it snow, let it snow!! I know I speak for all of us as I

ask for a White Christmas – and not just for Christmas, we'll take it for December and January!

As I talk with maple producers around New York State, the consensus seems to be that sales of maple products are up, and that the demand from the public is strong. That is great news for all of us. I encourage you to attend the annual maple conference in Verona to learn about the latest techniques in production and marketing so that you can make the most of your 2011 maple crop. If you can't make Verona, then try to attend one of the regional schools later in January in WNY or the Adirondacks.

Maple Weekend planning is in progress, and work has begun on the upgrade to www.nysmaple.com. This is an exciting project that is being provided by the USDA – the association was awarded a specialty crop grant to fund this.

Look for the March issue of Martha Stewart Living – they will have a feature page about buying real maple syrup. The photos that will accompany the article are of NYS maple supplied by the association.

Also, NY maple sugar is being served to the international visitors who will be attending the NATO holiday dinner in Brussels, Belgium. The association provided one thousand maple sugar maple leaves to be part of the dessert of this banquet. This will give provide NY maple some international publicity!

If you ever have questions about the association, or need help with any aspect of maple, remember that you can contact the association at 315-877-5795 or via email at office@nysmaple.com.

All the best,

Helen Thomas

NYSMPA Executive Director

Contestants Sought for 2011 Multi-County Maple Royalty Contest

Source: Laurie Jean Britton, Multi-County Maple Pageant Director, 315-717-6288, 10/23/10

Contestants are now being accepted to compete for the opportunity to represent their county as a maple queen or maple princess and advance to the New York State Maple Queen pageant in Croghan. The county contest will be held on January 8, 2011 at Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School during the annual New York Maple Producers Winter Conference. The competition will be held in the morning with afternoon activities to follow.

This event is open to any single young woman within the age guidelines whose home county does not already have a local maple queen contest in place. The title of maple princess (open to ages 12-15) or maple queen (open to ages 16-24) will be presented to the top scorer from each county in their respective age group. The winners will receive a crown, sash and

trophy along with the honor of representing the maple producers of their county at various appearances.

Young men may also compete for the titles of maple prince (open to ages 12-15) or maple king (open to ages 16-24). King and prince winners do not compete at the state level, but may represent their titles locally.

Contestants will be judged on a private interview, presentation of a

two to three minute speech about some aspect of maple, poise and confidence while wearing a gown or formal dressy attire and answering a spontaneous on stage question. Knowledge of the maple industry is desirable, but enthusiasm for promoting maple products is most important. Applications may be requested by contacting Laurie Jean Britton at 315-717-6288. The deadline for applications to be returned is January 3, 2011.

WIRELESS CREDIT CARD MACHINE FOR SALE

NYSPMA owns a wireless credit card processing machine that we would like to sell. It is a Way Systems brand.

Contact the office for details if you are interested. Suggested price is \$300. (We paid \$650).

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LABEL DESIGN

Arlette Murphy Engel
Illustrator ♦ Designer

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Good Boundaries Make Good Neighbors

Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester and Director of the Cornell Maple Program, Cornell University Cooperative Extension. Department of Natural Resources, Ithaca, www.ForestConnect.info pjs23@cornell.edu 607.592.3640

Maple producers enjoy their sugarbush and the associated woodlands. In addition to maple sap, they often seek numerous benefits from their property, including as a retreat, a place to work the land, firewood for their evaporator, timber, wildlife, privacy, and recreational opportunities. In almost all circumstances, the ability of the maple producer to fully and continuously enjoy the benefits of their property requires that they know and mark their property boundary. Marked property boundaries define your property from your neighbors and establish a legal structure that helps protect your interests.

Two examples will illustrate the value of marked boundaries. With a marked boundary, a timber harvest on the neighbor's property is less likely to accidentally include timber from your property. A clearly marked line is appreciated by neighbors, loggers and foresters, and helps keep honest people honest. A timber thief who steals



trees from an owner with a marked boundary cannot effectively use their ignorance of the property line to explain their actions. Similarly, people who are recreating or hunting on a property with marked boundaries are less likely to stray onto the neighboring property and potentially aggravate the neighbor.

Boundary marking establishes a legal structure on your property. As a legal structure, certain NY laws will apply. If you have additional questions about the practices or legal details concerning boundary marking, contact a licensed land surveyor, a DEC Environmental Conservation Officer, or Forest Ranger if your property is adjacent to NYS

Forest Land or Forest Preserve.

Before marking your property boundary you need to know the location of the line. There are several advantages to having a licensed land surveyor determine the property lines and corners. Surveyors are trained to interpret property deed descriptions and have tools and experience to locate and mark property corners and boundaries. If the line is disputed in court a licensed surveyor will be most capable of defending their work. NY Licensed Land Surveyors can be found in the phone book, by recommendation from other NYSMPA members or online at www.nysapls.org

Land surveyors can be hired to conduct a variety of tasks and simply requesting them to "survey your property" won't result in marked boundary lines. Ask the surveyor to also at least temporarily flag the boundary for you to blaze. A better request that adds minimally to the cost is to have the



surveyor blaze and paint the boundary line. A blaze consists of removing a section of bark 30 to 40 square inches down to the wood. After the wood has dried, a permanent bright or fluorescent paint is used on the exposed wood and adjacent bark. Use caution when selecting a type of paint because some have the potential for fumes that can cause respiratory problems or can be an eye irritant. A blaze is a more permanent feature than a posted sign, but has a different legal implication. Posting is discussed further later in this article.

The process of blazing a property line previously established by a legal survey should begin by talking with your neighbor. Alert them to your plans, explain you will be using a legal survey on file with the county clerk, and describe how you will identify the line. Invite them to join you on the project. You can blaze a tree on your property, but talk with your neighbor about blazing trees on their property. They may allow blazing on low value trees, but to use only paint on species of higher value. Do not remove bark from a former blaze as that feature represents historical evidence that establishes precedent for your legal boundary.

The position of the blaze on a tree depends on the location of the line. The convention is to place the blaze and paint facing the line. If a tree is truly a "line tree", or positioned so the boundary line runs through the tree, a blaze is positioned on opposite sides of the tree where the line would enter and exit the tree. With a line tree, the blazes may be in the center or off-center of the tree, depending on the location of the line. If the tree is on

your property, the blaze and paint are on the side of the tree facing your neighbor's property. If the tree is on your neighbor's property, the blaze and paint are on the side of the tree facing your property. Typically paint and blaze are not applied to trees more than 3 to 5 feet away from the line. On the next NYSMPA tour or gathering, talk with other producers about their experience with blazing trees on and near boundaries.

Marking the corner follows a slightly different convention. A permanent corner feature, such as a pipe or concrete monument, is demarcated by placing three blazes in a vertical sequence on one or more witness trees, with the blazes facing the permanent feature. If the corner is a tree, the corner tree has blazes where the line enters and leaves the tree, and then one or more witness trees facing the corner tree. The species and size of the corner tree would likely be referenced in the written deed description.

Some Cooperative Extension publications suggest blazing into the wood and lifting a large splinter from the top of the blaze but that remains connected at the bottom of the blaze. This splinter will be evident in the blaze even as the callous tissue on the tree heals over the blaze. (see http://extension.unh.edu/resources/representation/Resource000244_Rep263.pdf) Other resources describe the process for locating and blazing lines (see <http://extension.umd.edu/publications/PDFs/FS619.pdf>)

Continued on page 14

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The frequency of paint and blazes depends on the density of the vegetation. It is helpful to see one painted blaze from the previous blaze. Alternatively, try walking towards your property line and make sure you can see at least two blazes as you approach.

In the event of a timber theft, a journal entry describing annual maintenance of your property line will help your case. Most paint designed for boundary marking has a lifespan of 5 to 7 years. At a maximum, maintain your paint within this interval of time, but it is better to more frequently inspect your property lines to look for evidence of timber theft of other trespass. Tree marking paints are available through forestry equipment and supply dealers you can locate on the internet. On our property, our family tradition is to walk the line on July 4th and touch up the paint as needed. This helps reinforce the ownership of the property for our daughters and

allows us to check on any neighbor activity that might affect our property.

In NY, a blazed and painted line does not equate to a "posted" boundary. There are valid reasons to post or not post your property. More information about how to

legally post your boundary is available at www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/posting.pdf. Although not equivalent to posting, a well maintained blazed and painted boundary indicates an owner who is attentive to their property and encourages potential visitors to ask permission before entering. If you post your property, you should also blaze and paint the lines.



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New York **Maple** Producers Association Receives Grant

17 Projects Receive Federal Funds to Ensure Long-Term Viability of NY Fruits & Vegetables

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker today announced \$1.1 million for 17 projects that will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in New York State. Funded and approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Specialty Crop Block Grants help ensure long-term viability of specialty crops grown in New York State, which include fruits, vegetables, maple, honey and horticultural products.

"As successful and diverse as New York's agricultural industry is, it is not without challenges, nor opportunities for improvement," the Commissioner said. "We in New York are once again appreciative of the strong support we receive from our members of Congress in securing these specialty crop funds. These federal funds have been instrumental in the past in addressing problems and implementing solutions that better our industry as a whole, and we expect this next round of projects to do the same."

The competitively awarded projects focus on two general categories that reflect input the Department received from industry stakeholders, which are research and grower education, and consumer outreach and market development. A total of \$600,000 was awarded for eight research and grower education projects; and \$235,000 for four consumer outreach and market development projects. In addition to those projects, the Department will be using \$293,682 to implement five statewide initiatives that will positively influence all specialty crop commodities throughout the State.

A total of 42 applications requesting over \$3.2 million were received by the Department for funding. The awarded grants, which were competitively chosen, average \$70,000 each and do not require matching funds.

USDA's announcement of the specialty crop funding can be found at <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/09/0472.xml>.

New York Maple Producers Association Grant

\$40,070

Maple Producers E-Business and Internet Marketing Project (New York State Maple Producers Association): Consumers increasingly turn to the Internet to learn about and locate New York food products. In addition to promoting the industry's recent "Taste the Tradition" branding initiative, this project will expand the Maple Producers' existing web presence by developing new tools and interactive approaches for sharing information with both producers and the public.



Send Us Your **Photos!**

office@nysmaple.com

We are asking everyone to take & send photos of any aspect of their maple business. Digital, high resolution photos only, please. These will be used on various advertising and informational brochures the maple producer's association creates, as well as on the upgraded nysmaple.com.

Suggestions for topics include (but are not limited to) trees, tubing, sugarhouse inside & out, the family & work crew (please include a list of names in the photos), show & farm market setups, product production & display. Photos that show people enjoying the work of the maple business are especially appealing.

People photos: please be sure anyone in the photo has given their permission to be photographed. So don't send photos of your customers unless you have their signed permission to use their picture.

We will make every attempt to credit the photographer & put a caption on the photo if the space & medium allow.

We'll accept photos anytime, but would especially appreciate anything you care to share by Dec 31. Contact the office for details.



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