The Old Sugar House is covered with snow!
2014 MMSA Board of Directors

President: Art Currey
830 E. Grand River
Fowlerville, Michigan 48836
(517) 223-3267
curreyart@gmail.com
2017

Director: Dale Forrester
28640 M-86
Colon, Michigan 49040
(269) 432-9275
mapledalefarm99@yahoo.com
2016

Vice President: Larry Haigh
6903 S. Lacey Lake Rd
Bellevue, Michigan 49021-8403
(269) 763-2210
lehaigh@voyager.net
2015

Director: Darren Flagel
7509 East Napier Ave
Benton Harbor, Michigan 49022
(269) 944-4064
dflagel@i2k.com
2015

Secretary: Debbi Thomas
492 Houghton Creek Rd
Rose City, Michigan 48654
(989) 685-2807
debbi1612@hotmail.com
2016

Director: Joe Woods
12646 Hickin Rd.
Rapid City, Michigan 49676
(231) 322-2897
woods@torchlake.com
2016

Treasurer: Arnold Hammel
725 E. Ward Rd
Shepherd, Michigan 48883
(989) 828-5415
hammela@cmich.edu
2017

Newsletter Editor: Cathi Bates
2800 N. Peterson Rd
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(231) 845-6902
cf_bates@hotmail.com
2015

Profile Editors: Merrie & Arnie Hammel
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Shepherd, Michigan 48883
(989) 828-5415
hammela@cmich.edu

MSU Extension Forestry Agent
Julie Crick
County Annex
P.O. Box 507
112 S. Fourth St
Roscommon, Michigan 48653
(989) 275-4670 or
(989) 275-5043

Cover Photo: The old sugar house at the Fred Bates farm.
A message from your MMSA President

January 18th, at the Board meeting following the annual MMSA meeting in Clare, Larry Haigh asked to step down from the office of president, which he had dutifully held for many years. I was then elected by the Board to fill this position. Larry has done an excellent job for our association and we appreciate all he has accomplished. I am grateful that he has agreed to stay on as vice-president and will be helping me as I step into this role.

My wife, Jan and I were hobbyists for about 25 years, making between 8 and 10 gallons from about 35 taps at our home in Livingston County. 7 years ago, we returned to my family farm in Charlevoix, where last year we made 1928 gallons from about 6000 taps. We’ve been hobbyists, and are now commercial producers. Whether you’re a small producer or large, you can have a role in MMSA.

I invite you to become involved in MMSA this year. I want our association to represent all of its members. We are a diverse group united by the simple fact that when spring comes, we’re drawn like magnets to maple woods to harvest Michigan’s 1st agricultural crop of the calendar year. There are matters of importance and interest to us all. Let’s address them together. Please consider joining a committee and sharing your ideas and talents. Look for the insert in this newsletter where MMSA committee chairs are listed, along with how to contact them. Please let them know if you’d like to work with them, and if you have an idea for a committee that you don’t see, let me know.

I’ve just left a meeting hosted by Dan Miller, a MMSA member from Mio. While there, the Promotions Committee spent 3 hours discussing how we can tell people in Michigan more about maple syrup and get them to try some. Currently, the #1 thing we do as an association that brings the biggest return on investment is hosting Maple Weekend. If you need or want to sell more syrup, get involved with Maple Weekend. If you want your neighbors and people in your community to know what you do, get involved with Maple Weekend. If you want to become a destination for Michiganders who want to see maple production, get involved with Maple Weekend! To find more information about it, go to the MMSA website www.mi-maplesyrup.com

Tonight, February 5th, it’s 5 degrees as we drive from Mio to Charlevoix. Two years ago, we’d already had a thaw up north by this time. This year, Jan and I are wondering if spring will ever come! Join us in watching the weather reports daily as we move through February into March, waiting for that perfect day when the sap begins to flow. Best wishes for a great syrup season!

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Good selection of glass
GBM LLC. evaporators in stock

Open 7 days and late most evenings, but best to call first!

MICHIGAN MAPLE SYRUP ASSOCIATION
SUGARHILL JUGS
New Prices Effective January 1st, 2013
Jugs are two color (brown and teal) on an almond jug. Only Association Members will be able to purchase these jugs. The label includes a nutrition label and membership statement. The price of each jug includes 1 cent for the NAMSC Maple Research Fund, also a rebate of 7% will be made to the Michigan Maple Syrup Association.

<table>
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Order From:
Haigh’s Maple Syrup & Supplies, LLC
6903 Lacey Lake Rd
Bellevue, MI 49021-8403
Phone: 269-763-2210
Prices are FOB Bellevue, MI
Meeting was called to order by President Larry Haigh at 7:00 PM at the Doherty Hotel in Clare.

Members present: Larry Haigh, Darrin Flagel, Gerald Nelson, Fred Bates, Arnold Hammel, Debbi Thomas, Art Currey, Joe Woods and Dale Forrester. Guests present were Cathi Bates and Roger Griner.

Larry shared a statement to our membership that he prepared with the help of other board members. This is in response to the newly formed Commercial Maple Syrup Producers of Michigan (CMSPM). A copy will be put into each folder for tomorrow’s meeting.

Discussed the Pure Michigan ad campaign and the Michigan EDC.

Larry provided information that the Ag Council website has maple syrup info and we could get a link to our website on it. $5,000.00 would get us one voting member and be able to use their logo, $1,000.00 to $4,000.00 would be a project based membership. The discussion brought up many unanswered questions so we did not move forward with this.

Greenstone & Farm Bureau may be able to help us with promotions.

Dan Tassier & Daniel Miller were appointed to the promotion committee.

(con’t)
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517-349-3088 fax
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Discussed the benefits we provide with their membership in MMSA. The newsletter, membership in the NAMSC & IMSI, and postage nearly take all the $25.00 that membership dues are. It is felt we need to increase our dues to be able to do more promotion for our members. Discussion followed with no decisions made.

Have our winter meeting at the Holiday Inn in Big Rapids was discussed. However our regular January date was not available and our speaker for 2015 is already booked. There is the possibility that we could relocate for our 2016 meeting. Will look into having our May 2014 Board meeting there to look at the facility.

Larry brought up the benefits of our going into partnership with the MEAP program. An $800.00 per year donation will entitle us to use their logo and we will have spots aired on the Michigan Farm Radio Network.

Discussed taping the General session & the main breakouts sessions. “Image Works” will be having 2 cameras / 2 people for our 2014 meeting. It was suggested that we encourage the speakers to repeat questions from the membership so everyone hears them and they will be recorded. The cost is $1,500.00. Discussion followed as to burn a CD / DVD or flash drive to pass out. Suggested we stream it on our website but Larry reminded us that our Association DVD had to be put on in two parts due to size so streaming is out.

Board reviewed General Meeting Agenda and put packets together for the next day

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Submitted by:
Debbi Thomas, Secretary
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Ad Deadlines

In order to get the Newsletter out in a timely manner the dates for the articles, ads and business columns for each issue are as follows:

February 1
July 1
November 1

Send your ad to:
Cathi Bates, Editor
2800 N Peterson Rd
Ludington, MI 49431

Email: cf_bates@hotmail.com

Send your check to:
Arnold Hammel
725 E. Ward Road
Shepherd, MI 48883

Make check out to MMSA

Michigan Maple Syrup Association’s Newsletter is published three times a year in March, August, and December. We welcome you to send photos, letters, news items and advertisements to the Editor.
General Membership
Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2014

Business meeting called to order at 9:26 am by President Larry Haigh at the Doherty Hotel in Clair. Two hundred and seventy five people were in attendance for the meeting.

Larry offered some opening remarks and went over the plan for the day.

Board members were introduced.

Fred Bates introduced the candidates for the board. Arnie Hammell, Art Currey, Mark Majac & Dan Satkowiak were offered as a slate to be voted on. Joe Woods moved and seconded by ??? to nominate Cyndi Alexander from the floor. Each candidate stepped up to the mike to tell the membership about themselves and their maple experience. Tim Boonstra and Bill Britt were appointed to tally the votes after collecting the paper ballots.

Lou Niemth moved seconded by Earl Wilson to accept the Secretary’s report as printed in the Winter issue of the newsletter. MP

Dick Enos moved seconded by Dale Forrester to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented by Arnold Hammel. MP

Dale Forrester gave the IMSI report:
  Shared statistics about syrup produced from Quebec and the rest of the Canada & the US
  The Asian Long Horned Beetle has been found in Toronto
  The new grading kits are available. There are three bottles in the kit – light, med & dark. 2015 is the official take off for the new grading system
  IMSI is working on the use of the term “maple flavoring”.

Larry Haigh gave the NAMSC report:
  Discussed the research grants awarded by North American Maple Syrup Council in October at the Annual meeting.
  Dave Hamilton from Indiana has been elected president of the NAMSC.
  Roy Hutchinson is stepping down from being the editor of the Maple Digest for the past 25 years. Winton Pitcoff was appointed the new editor.
  Information was shared about the meeting to be held in Nova Scotia in Oct 2014
Jay Johnson gave the Michigan NASS report. He explained that Michigan, Indiana and Ohio are now under the Michigan office. There are Specialty Crop grants offered thru USDA. The NASS budget may be restored somewhat this year. Again encouraged our membership to respond as the info is NOT used by anyone else. Encouraged use of the internet at www.nass.usda.gov for responses as the cost of the second mailing is approx. $2.00 and if they have to call it goes up to approx. $60.00 to $70.00. The response rate from Michigan is at 80%. Last year reported 148,000 gallons and approx. 49,000 taps which puts Michigan in 6th place of producing states.

Discussed having a ceremonial first tapping during March to kick off our Maple Weekends. Joe Woods will have more info during a break out session. He will also have signs available for us to pick up if we had signed up to participate.

Shared information on the raising of dues and why it is needed. Asked for ideas from members for promotions.

Fred Bates gave the election results: 3 year terms: Art Currey, Arnie Hammell & Cyndi Alexander.

Debbi Thomas moved seconded by Dan Satkowiak to destroy the ballots. MP

It was brought up that we should have a new contest on using maple other than the regular ways. Possibly have a novelty category in our contest.

Syrup contest winners as follows:

- Light Amber – Abe Schmucker, Mio
- Medium Amber – Richard Hyde, Morley
- Dark Amber – Terry & Heather Coleman, Ludington.
- Maple Cream – Ron Kistler, Ludington
- Maple Candy – Ron Kistler, Ludington
- Best of Show – Terry & Heather Coleman, Ludington

Meeting adjourned at 10:37 am

Submitted by:

Debbi Thomas, Secretary
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MMSA Committees and Chairperson</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Arnie Hammel</td>
<td>989-828-5415</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:hamme1a@cmich.edu">hamme1a@cmich.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Tour</td>
<td>Art Currey</td>
<td>517-294-7123</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:curreyart@gmail.com">curreyart@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Joe Woods</td>
<td>231-322-2897</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:woods@torchlake.com">woods@torchlake.com</a></td>
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<td>Promotion</td>
<td>Cyndi Alexander</td>
<td>989-965-1912</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:calexander@vt.edu">calexander@vt.edu</a></td>
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<td>Legislation</td>
<td>Mary Douglass</td>
<td>517-349-5185</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:mary@sugarbushsupplies.com">mary@sugarbushsupplies.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>Nominations</td>
<td>Dale Forrester</td>
<td>269-432-9275</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:mapledalefarm-99@yahoo.com">mapledalefarm-99@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>Honorary Members</td>
<td>Fred Bates</td>
<td>231-845-6902</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:cf_bates@hotmail.com">cf_bates@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Syrup Contest</td>
<td>Darren Flagel</td>
<td>269-944-4064</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:dflagel@i2k.com">dflagel@i2k.com</a></td>
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<td>Syrup Contest Plaques</td>
<td>Debbi Thomas</td>
<td>989-685-2807</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:debbi1612@hotmail.com">debbi1612@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Web Site</td>
<td>Arnie Hammel</td>
<td>989-828-5415</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:hamme1a@cmich.edu">hamme1a@cmich.edu</a></td>
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<td>Larry Haigh</td>
<td>269-763-2210</td>
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<td>Fred Bates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>Cathi Bates</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:cf_bates@hotmail.com">cf_bates@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Profile Editor</td>
<td>Merrie &amp; Annie Hammel</td>
<td>989-828-5415</td>
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<td>231-322-2897</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:woods@torchlake.com">woods@torchlake.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maple News Reporter</td>
<td>Cyndi Alexander</td>
<td>989-965-1912</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liaison to MDARD</td>
<td>Larry Haigh</td>
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<td>NAMSC Travel Planner</td>
<td>Debbi Thomas</td>
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MMSA WEBSITE DIRECTORY LISTING

Please fill out the following information:

Member Name: __________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

City/State/Zip: __________________________________________

Phone: __________________________________________

Email: __________________________________________

Check all that apply: ______ Retail Maple Products
                     ______ Wholesale Maple Products
                     ______ Maple Equipment and Supplies

This directory information will appear on the Producers page of the
MMSA Web Site:     www.mi-maplesyrup.com

There are two options:

1. Directory Only Listing ($20.00 per year)

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   This includes the Directory Listing along with
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   The text for my own descriptive information is as follows:
   (Additional page may be added if sufficient space is not available)

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   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________

PAYMENT: Directory ($20.00)  ___ Directory and Descriptive($50.00) ___
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Arnie Hammel,   725 E Ward Rd,   Shepherd, MI 48883
2014 Organizational Meeting  
January 18, 2014

Election of Officers:

President: Art Currey  
Vice President: Larry Haigh  
Secretary: Debbi Thomas  
Treasurer: Arnie Hammel

Committee Assignments:

Next page

2014 MMSA Meetings, Dates & Locations:

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<td>May 10th, 2014</td>
<td>Big Rapids</td>
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<td>Fall Tour:</td>
<td>Sept 20 or 27, 2014</td>
<td>Imlay City/ Lapeer</td>
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<td>Board Meeting, Fall:</td>
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<td>NAMSC/IMSI Meeting</td>
<td>Oct. 21-24, 2014</td>
<td>Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia, Old Orchard Inn &amp; Spa</td>
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<td>Board Meeting, Winter:</td>
<td>Nov. 8th, 2014</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
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<td>Jan, 17th, 2015</td>
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Review of Evaluations of today’s meeting

Adjournment
January 18th, 2014

Statement to our MMSA members,

Most of you have recently received communication from the newly formed Commercial Maple Syrup Producers of Michigan (CMSPM). We know from your phone calls and letters that there is confusion about this new group, its purpose and how it differs from MMSA. As this group formed outside of our organization and without our knowledge or input, we cannot offer much more information than you are receiving yourselves. However, we would like to give a brief overview of what we DO know and offer our assurance that the MMSA continues to strive to represent all maple syrup producers in the state to the best of our abilities.

Your MMSA Board of Directors first became aware of this group just prior to the 2013 Fall Tour. At that time, we were asked to write a letter of support for a CMSPM grant application asking for funding of a feasibility study exploring the expansion of maple syrup production in Michigan. Both the formation of the new group and the grant application came as a surprise to us. Because of our own lack of knowledge about the group at the time and the short window of time allotted, the MMSA board was unable to endorse the group at that time. Based on verbal and written communications since that time, it is our understanding that the CMSPM was formed by a small number of Michigan maple producers seeking to represent larger-scale producers in the state and focusing on expansion of the maple industry in Michigan.

(Con’t)
The purpose of MMSA has always been to represent maple producers from across the state of Michigan—producers of all sizes and from all production areas. The objectives of the MMSA speak for themselves: to actively recruit and represent Michigan's maple syrup producers and speak with recognized authority and reliability on their behalf; to provide educational opportunities to our membership and promotional education and activities to the public; to actively lobby for laws that will protect and enhance Michigan maple products; to cooperate with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), the MSU Extension Service and other colleges, universities and organizations on initiatives that promote the maple industry; to communicate regularly with all MMSA members through scheduled meetings and newsletters; and to represent Michigan producers in regional, national and international maple organizations. As a board, we take these responsibilities seriously. We have done and continue to do important work in all of these areas.

With that in mind, we cannot help but wonder why the goals of the CMSPM could not be accomplished within the confines of MMSA. We trust our membership to embrace the interests of all producers in Michigan even when—and especially when—there is diversity of opinion on what needs to be accomplished and how. There is strength in unity. Collaboration and cooperation, even through disagreement, are the foundation of our society and our industry. Our membership and leadership positions are open to all and we welcome suggestions and active participation in our programs. If change is desired and needed, your board is willing to listen and respond.

While we will cooperate where we can with CMSPM for the good of our industry, we must confess that we are very concerned that two separate organizations representing maple producers in the State of Michigan will cause confusion, division and strife within our industry. We have already

(con’t)
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experienced this confusion among State Representatives and MDARD staff. Further, it will divide the limited resources we have available to our industry. We believe that volunteers working diligently together toward the same goals can accomplish far more than those same individuals treading down separate and different paths.

The MMSA Board will continue to strive to represent and serve our members. Some of our current projects include organizing the second annual Michigan Maple Weekend; working with Governor Snyder's office to again have March declared "Michigan Maple Syrup Month" for a third year; and working with State Representatives to encourage Governor Snyder to take part in a "First Tapping" ceremony in the Spring. We have initiated a promotional fund to be used solely for advertising and promotion of maple syrup. We continue to offer newsletters, the Annual Meeting, and Fall Tour as important yearly events and services. With our involvement with the commodity executive meetings we are now listed on the Michigan Ag Council web site with a link to our site. The site is www.michiganagriculture.com.

We look forward to your continued support and ask that you find a way to be more personally involved in our organization. Your suggestions and participation are not just welcome, but needed! We truly believe there is strength in numbers. We are proud to represent such a fine group of people and look forward to working with you to make 2014 another great year for Michigan Maple!
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Michigan Maple Syrup Association has chosen to add another benefit to your membership. If you have bulk syrup for sale just get the information to your Newsletter editor and an advertisement will be placed in the Newsletter at no charge. You will have to renew the ad in each Newsletter.

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Fax: (269) 683-4835
Email: doddmaple@netzero.net
Member Profile:
Moram Maple
Dick and Patricia Hyde
11872 Bailey Road, Morley, MI 49336
hyderp@casair.net, 231-856-4481

The Hyde family, Dick and Patricia, son Shaun and wife Betty and their children Avery (6) and Claire (5) make up three of the four generations that have made maple syrup at Moram Maple. Since 1970 syrup has been made there, using a flat pan in the earlier years. Their operation is unique in that sap comes from both Montcalm and Mecosta counties, located just north and west of the middle of the Lower Peninsula.

They tap trees in a woodlot on their dairy farm and also along the road side. Some trees have pails or bags and others have tubing leading to barrels. A tractor and trailer combination is used to collect sap in good weather conditions but neighbors have horses that are sometimes called in to help. Wonder what Dick will use in this snowy season?

The sap is boiled down in a Leader 2 x 6 evaporator with a preheater. This operation takes place near the farm buildings so is close for road collecting. The evaporator is fired with wood cut from the farm woodlot; preparations are year around as at many sugar bushes. Dick and Pat are able to sell much of their syrup to grateful neighbors and family members. And, this year, that is award winning syrup as Moram Maple won first place in the amber syrup category at the MMSA Contest in Clare.

The Hyde's are full time dairy farmers, milking 60 Registered Holsteins, 80 head of young stock, growing their own crops of corn, hay, soybeans. Sugaring time, the fun time of the year, gives the family a little break from the everyday chores. Daughters Michelle and Katie and families come help for the special time of the year. Dick and Pat are active in their community and are regular attendees of MMSA fall tours and January conferences. They tell that the season-ending highlight is a pancake breakfast they host for neighbors and family members; an idea other producers might try if they haven’t already!
MICHIGAN MAPLE SYRUP ASSOCIATION
Application for Membership
New: ___ Renewal: ___

Membership Type: Producer_____ Associate____

Producer — A person, family, company or organization which produces, packs or prepares, for profit or otherwise, any maple products.
Associate — A person, company or organization, other than the Producer, who has an interest in maple products.

Farm Name_______________________________________________________
Name____________________________________________________________
Address__________________________________________________________
City__________________________ State__________ Zip_________________
Phone____________________ County_________________________________
E-mail Address______________________ Web Site______________________

1. Year you first joined MMSA ___________
2. Are you a producer______ Enthusiast_____
3. Number of taps: This year_______ Last year ________ (optional)
4. Gallons of syrup produced last year_______ (optional)
5. Do you make: Candy____ Cream____ Sugar____ Other____
6. Annual Membership Fee of $25 is due by March 1st each year. The earlier you get it in the more likely you won’t miss a benefit.

As a member of the Michigan Maple Syrup Association, I agree to meet all Michigan standards in the production and sale of all maple products and promote whenever possible.

Date:__________ Applicant Signature:_________________________________

Make check payable to Michigan Maple Syrup Association
Send check and form to: Arnie Hammel
725 E. Ward
Shepherd MI 48883
MAPLE 101 and other opportunities for Beginners

Beginning maple syrup producers: here is some information on educational opportunities available to you during this next year! Got questions? Get answers!

First: there will be a “track” of sessions called Maple 101 at the annual MMSA meeting January 17, 2015 (location to be communicated at a later date). These break-out meetings will be specifically designed for small and new syrup makers. You will leave the day with a basic overview of information that will be helpful to you as you enter the industry. You will also receive orientation about what MMSA has to offer you, and how you can become involved.

Next: there is an annual meeting that takes place at Verona, NY each year on the Friday night and Saturday that follow New Year’s Day. This is a producer focused conference with practical and hands-on sessions. There can be as many as 100 different sessions to attend and many of them are aimed at new producers. This is an excellent assortment of information and resources. The conference is sponsored by the Verona Schools FFA, New York State Maple Producers Association, the Cornell Maple Program and Cornell Cooperative Extension. Prices this year were $30 for Fri night, and $40 for Fri. and Sat. Watch for registration forms in the Maple Digest later this Fall. They will also be eventually available at the Cornell Maple Program website: www.cornellmaple.com. Another contact is FFA advisor Keith Schiebel at kschiebel@vvsschools.org.

Finally, consider a subscription to The Maple News. The cost is $30 per year, or $55 for two years (for 10 issues per year). This month’s issue had 24 pages filled with articles on what’s making the news in maple production in the U.S. and Canada. There is also a separate, large section of classified ads. This is a good overall look at the industry and also a good source of ads for used equipment. Go to www.themaplenews.com or call 518-692-2204 to subscribe.
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- 16 fl oz (pint)
- 32 fl oz (quart)
- 1/2 gallon
- gallon

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MICHIGAN MAPLE SYRUP ASSOCIATION SALE ITEMS

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City, State, Zip___________________________________________
Phone_____________________ Tax Exempt #_________________

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Syrup and Candy Contest Winners (listed in the order they are standing)
Maple Candy, Sue Kistler standing in for winner, Ron Kistler, Ludington
Dark Amber Heather Coleman (Terry not in photo), Ludington.
Best of Show, Heather Coleman, Ludington
Maple Cream, Ron Kistler, Ludington
Light Amber, Abe Schmucker, Mio
Medium Amber, Richard Hyde, Morley

Gerald Nelson presents Cathi Bates with Honorary Membership