

MAPLE WEEKEND TOURS START ON MARCH 27

By Heather Makechnie
Beacon staff

According to the New Hampshire Maple Producers Association, New Hampshire is the sixth largest producer of maple syrup in the country, producing close to 90,000 gallons each spring. Maple sugaring time in New Hampshire usually lasts four to six weeks, from mid-February to mid-April. The days and length of the sap run depends entirely on the weather.

This year marks the 15th New Hampshire Maple Producers Association Maple Weekend Tour, from Saturday, March 27, through Sunday, March 28. Over 65 sugarhouses across the state will welcome visitors. Visit NHMapleProducers.com for a complete list of participating member sugarhouses.

Two Andover sugarhouses are members of the organization. Don and Lorraine Cline's Wychwood Farm on Shaw Hill Road will not be participating in the tour this year. Explains Lorraine, "We are building a new sugar house and hope to hold a special event next season. We will, however, be selling syrup, so people can stop by or call us at 648-2110. We sold out this year pretty early, and sold all of our honey, as well."

Eric Johnson of Tucker Mountain Maple Co-op at 224 Tucker Mountain Road in East Andover, says that they will be participating in the tour. "We

will have open house from 9 AM to 3 PM on Saturday and from 10 AM to 3 PM on Sunday. In addition, on Saturday from 11 AM to 1 PM, there will be a cook-out. Weather permitting, we will be boiling. Folks are welcome to stop by and learn about the process of making the syrup. I will be there to answer any questions, and to pass out free samples of warm syrup. There may possibly be sugar on snow and doughnuts. There will be coloring books for the kids."

Eric says that this is the busiest day of the year for the Tucker Mountain Co-op. "Usually it is pretty muddy right around then, so be sure to wear appropriate clothing. Follow the signs on Maple Street." The Co-op can be reached at 735-5602.

The award-winning Highland Lake Inn on Maple Street in East Andover is offering a "Maple Madness" package, at \$140 per person, double occupancy. The package includes two nights lodging, sumptuous breakfasts with maple syrup as the main ingredient, the experience of gathering and boiling at the nearby Tucker Mountain sugarhouse, and a pint of maple syrup as a souvenir. A sleigh ride at Ragged Mountain Farm is optional and weather dependent. Also available are lift tickets for Ragged Mountain Ski Area. Go to GraniteStateVacations.com or call 735-5355.

Hersey from page 26

from and of our connection to the land. To preserve this place in our town will allow farmers for generations to come to carry on this rich tradition. Hersey farm nourishes us, in both body and spirit. I'm honored to be part of an effort to keep it so."

Nancy Teach, college administrator, past chair of ASLPT Board of Trustees

"My timing was perfect to buy my first home and move to Andover. The Hersey property easement affirms why I moved to Andover. Heading to the west into Andover it is a gateway. An-

dover's residents embrace the town's rural nature and are beginning to understand that preserving land through conservation easements is not about being against building new homes, nor are we all 'tree huggers.' Instead, it's about being thoughtful about our future. And the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust is not just for those New London folks on the hill; it's for our 12-town region in the larger state of New Hampshire."

To donate to the fund to protect the Hersey Family Farm, send a check payable to ASLPT to PO Box 2040, New London 03257. For more information, visit AusbonSargent.org.



Tim Frost sent along this photo of his dad, AW Frost, probably taken around 1930. According to Tim, "Dad was once told by a Fish and Game officer that he was probably the best fly fisherman in the state." A charter member of the Andover Fish and Game Club, he was often seen fly fishing in the Newfound River with his business suit and hip waders on!

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**PLEASE JOIN US FOR NH MAPLE OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND
MARCH 27TH & 28TH, 2010**

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