

MAPLE WEEKEND

NHMPA press release

Although early, the maple season in New Hampshire has begun. Due to the non-winter weather this February, sap has started to run, and the sugar makers of the state have begun the annual ritual of converting the clear sap into the liquid gold we all love: maple syrup.

Governor John Lynch has declared Saturday, March 24, and Sunday, March 25, as New Hampshire Maple Weekend. Maple Weekend is an annual open house held by the maple producers of the state to showcase their amber-colored liquid jewel and the products made from it.

Nearly 100 sugar houses – includ-

ing Tucker Mountain Maple at 224 Tucker Mountain Road in Andover – will be offering samples of syrup, maple products, and refreshments. Some locations will have petting farms, pancake breakfasts, and other family activities.

Come join the fun at a local sugar house. Producers will be happy to discuss with you how sap is turned into syrup. Experience the centuries-old craft, and taste why pure New Hampshire maple syrup has long been a delicious harbinger of spring.

Hours and participating locations can be found at NHMapleProducers.com or call 225-3757 for information. 

ANDOVER FISH & GAME CLUB

By Gordon Ordway

Andover Fish and Game Club

The Andover Fish and Game Club hosted the annual Al Chadwick Memorial Fishing Derby on February 4 at Keezer Lake in Sutton. We had a great turnout despite the weather. There were 57 participants total.

We awarded three prize categories, each winner receiving \$100 for the longest fish. The longest pickerel was caught by Arthur Ruff: 23.5". The longest perch was caught by Brian Kane: 13.25", and a 20" bass was caught by Spencer Jubert.

The event coordi-



Howard George with his dedication plaque for serving as a member of Andover Fish and Game for over 60 years.

Photo: Gordon Ordway

nators, Steve Smith and George Barton, said it was one of the best turnouts in years. We would like to thank Murray Smith and Bob Harrington for helping out with the Derby.

It has been a crazy winter, so be careful out on the ice!

Next month we will have the results from the annual Willis Nowell Kids Ice Fishing Derby.

At the last meeting, Howard George received his dedication plaque from the club. Howard has been a member for over 60 years. He is a very active member of the club and the community. Congratulations, Howard! 

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mates will hold him up, dust him off, and provide support."

Ours is a job that no one is able to do alone. A firefighter who thinks he is alone is in trouble and cannot cope with our calling. We either must bring the member into the team spirit, or let him go. The emotional and physical weight of firefighting must be borne by many who act as one.

A single, well-trained fire depart-

ment fought that awful fire on that cold day. Perhaps that day marked the end of the old Andover and East Andover fire departments and the birth of a new, unified one. We shall see. But what I do know is that your fire department is stronger, for we have faced a tremendous test and we did well.

Are we OK? We have met as a team and discussed our concerns, but each man must answer that question himself. On balance, we are fine.

Thank you so very much for asking. 

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fundraisers are needed if we are to continue this tradition.

Other groups depend on this opportunity to raise money for their clubs and organizations. This year we will be raffling off a quilt (Sweet Liberty) on the fourth. It was made and donated by Irene Haley and the

proceeds will go into the Fourth of July fund. Tickets will be available on Town Meeting Day.

Jamie Thompson is working on a Web site that will have forms and Fourth of July updates. As soon as it is in place we will let you know. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or can help in any way please call Jamie at 735-5581. 

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

January 18

Condensed from draft minutes

Present: Alex Bernhard, Steve Darling, Charles Martin, Myra Mayman, Peter Southworth, Bob Ward, and guests Chuck Hoheisel, Dick Mackay, and Ken Warren from Friends of the Northern Rail Trail (FNRT) Grafton.

FNRT Grafton/Merrimack combined issues: Special guests Dick Mackay and Ken Warren from FNRT Grafton

a. Common signage. It was agreed that both Merrimack and Grafton want to develop common signage. Charles shared current maps that we are using and could be used in Franklin. Dick asked about recording mileage on the maps (from town centers and services), an idea widely supported.

Alex noted that Upper Valley Trails Alliance is offering a February meeting on signage. Ken observed that many trail users would use electronic GPS technology in the future. Charles and Bob will continue working on the sign content, Alex will pursue a graphic designer, and that group will check in with Dick with developments.

b. Common milepost numbering. Dick expressed Grafton County's excitement to install granite mileposts. He plans to promote a newspaper article in hopes of publicizing and locating the missing mileposts. Charles reported the 12" posts are available to buy in Concord. Dick's plan is to create an "Adopt a Mile Marker" program for the public to fund the roughly 20 posts needed in Grafton County.

c. Joint Web site. Ken reported that a Web master in Enfield is getting ready to bring a new Grafton Web site online. It includes a Google map, a place to note a downed tree, a place to donate to the club, etc. It was agreed that we should share a common Web site, NorthernRailTrailOfNH.org, that will include links to both the Grafton and Merrimack Web sites. Ken will contact Steve to communicate with the Grafton Web master to set up the shared site.

d. Possible use of grader and compactor in Grafton. The Merrimack group will initiate grading and com-

pacting from Zaccariah Road north if Dick and the Grafton group believe it is needed in the spring.

e. Report on status of extension of Trail north of current terminus in Lebanon. Dick explained their work with Lebanon about how to extend the trail several miles north and across I-89 to behind the Timken plant.

Treasurer's Report: Steve submitted an end-of-year report. He noted that 96% of our money raised is spent in trail building and maintenance.

Old Business

Recreation Trail Program (RTP): There is no RTP funding available this year, and there is no guarantee the funds will be available in 2013. Alex suggested that our own fundraising might raise an additional \$15,000 to complement our allocated \$15,000 so we could build two miles of trail toward Boscawen. We discussed how to get Boscawen involved.

Maintenance: New illegal dumping east of Bridge Street. Usage signs for Franklin.

Trailhead at Irving Oil on Route 3 in Franklin: Bob explained the process of meeting with the city of Franklin, the Lakes Region Planning Commission, and RSG Engineers to plan and make an improved parking and trail access site.

Technology report: Heather suggested a calendar (Google type) added to our Web site that includes events, meetings, etc.

Enfield Bridge: Both FNRT Merrimack and FNRT Grafton are working to preserve the 19th-century railroad bridge over Main Street in Enfield. Without this bridge in place, trail users would have to cross a busy street. Loss of the bridge would also cause an interruption in the continuity of the trail, a key element to users. Lastly, there is no need to take the bridge down, since NH DOT has built a very workable road that bypasses the bridge for local traffic heading for the Shaker Bridge and Route 4A.

Alex offered to provide copies of a legal memorandum that the Boston law firm of WilmerHale had written in support of our efforts to save the bridge. 



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