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This newsletter is a publication by the Ohio Maple Producers Association, sent out free to its membership and distributed to the general public throughout Ohio by editor and publisher Les Ober.



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Vice President-Dave Hively, Mahoning Co.
Secretary-Agnes Sojka, Geauga Co.
Treasurer-Paul Snavelly, Seneca Co.

2012 Association Directors (term expires)

District 1
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Tom Brundage, Seneca Co. (419) 639-2062, (2012)
Paul Hartschuh, Wyandot Co. (419) 927-6811, (2012)
Paul Snavelly, Seneca Co. (419) 639-2049, (2013)
Vacant, (2014)

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Vacant, (2013)
Vacant, (2014)

District 3
Central Ohio
Dan Brown, Knox Co. 740-694-7768, (2012)
Vacant, (2013)
David McGough, Knox Co. (740) 397-2456, (2014)
Vacant, (2014)

District 4
Southern Ohio
Chuck Walker, Licking Co. (740-967-6554, (2013)
Hugh Hyre, Monroe Co. (740) 567-3852, (2014)
Vacant, (2014)

District 5
Northeast Ohio
Karl Evans, Ashtabula Co. (330) 583-2892, (2012)
Dave Hively, Mahoning Co. (330) 332-0728, (2013)
Agnes Sojka, Geauga Co. (440) 285-4511, (2013)
Jen Freeman, Geauga Co. (440) 286-4160, (2014)

2011 NAMSC

Jen Freeman

2011 IMSI

Gary Graham

The Ohio Maple News is published January, April, July, and September of each year. Any submissions are due one month before publish date.

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Ohio Maple Producers Meet

Northeast Ohio, District 5, of the Ohio Maple Producers Association was the host for the 2011 OMPA annual meeting and tour on November 11-12. The two day event kicked off on Friday afternoon with lunch and a tour at Debonne Winery in Madison. Producers had a chance to tour the second largest winery in Ohio. Not only did we learn a lot about making wine but also learned about how the wine industry has grown in our state and what it means to the local economy. In many ways the wine industry and the maple industry have a lot in common. Both grape vines and maple trees are sustainable and can live for generations. Both use a refining process that converts a raw liquid into a finished product. In both cases the finished products are all natural and are locally produced. Both industries are striving to develop agro-tourism to promote and sell their products. This is just a unique comparison of two types of agriculture that are headed in the right direction. The second leg of the Friday tour was held at the Geauga Park Districts newest park, Observatory Park. A special tour was conducted by Park Director Tom Curtin and Assistant Park Director Keith McClintock of the Geauga County Park District. This is one of the area's most unique parks devoted exclusively to all things pertaining to the study our universe and outer space.

The evening banquet was held in Middlefield at the First Methodist Church. Producers enjoyed a full evening of delicious food entertainment and fellowship. The annual meeting included the adoption of a change to the OMPA bylaws. Attending members voted unanimously to allow the board to restructure the district representation to include directors at large. This will allow the board to help fill the ever growing number of vacancies within districts that have not been able to secure representatives to sit on the board of directors. A copy of the new bylaw changes is available to members upon request. This year's election results saw Jen Freeman, current president and director from District 5, returning to the board. The other directors with term expiring at the end of 2011, Hugh Hyer, David McGough and Roger Gortner are leaving the board in December. OMPA wants to thank them for their years of dedicated service. That leaves 8 vacancies on the OMPA Board that need to be filled. In other business Paul Janoskie of Chardon was presented with the plaque for the Hilton Farley award that he won for being the overall winner of the John Berry Maple Syrup Contest at the Ohio State Fair.

On Saturday morning the day dawned bright and clear with a cosmetic coating of snow. The perfect backdrop for a group of Ohio Maple Producers gathering for breakfast at picturesque 4-H Camp Whitewood in Windsor for a delicious pancake breakfast. They also had an opportunity to tour the Camp Whitewood sugarhouse. This was the second year that camp director Brandon Mitchell and his crew have made syrup in the new sugarhouse. The camp sets 400 buckets and markets most of their syrup and maple products through the camp store during the camping season. From there it was out the drive and down the road crossing one of Ashtabula County's famous covered bridges' on the way to eastern Geauga County. The next two stops were at Carl Defillipo's and Tom Salo's in Montville Township. These sugaring operations exemplify that you do not have to be big to produce good quality syrup. Carl was the winner of the 2010 Geauga Maple Festival's Top in County Producer Award. He runs 350 taps and produces 150 gallons of syrup on vacuum tubing. Tom runs 600 taps on vacuum tubing and he has just recently added a CDL hobby RO to his operation. He strives for efficiency, boiling over 125 gallons an hour on a 2X8 Leader Evaporator with a Revolution front pan and a Max Flue Pan with a Steam-A-Way. The next stop was the Bissel Family Sugarbush, a 1400 tap operation in Rock Creek Township, Ashtabula County. Nate Bissel and his father run this very organized and automated sugarbush. They run everything through a LaPierre RO and finish the concentrate on a 2X6 evaporator. This is fast becoming the trend, small efficient evaporators fed by an even more efficient RO's.

Lunch was held at Ray Gingerich's, Deer Run Sugarbush. Ray taps 2500, of his own and processes another 5500 taps with a goal of 10,000 taps. The heart of this operation is the new 2X10 Leader Evaporator, with a Revolution front pan, Leader Max Flue pan, with a Steam-A-Way, all sitting on a Vortex Arch. Once the syrup is run through an RO to 12%, this rig processes over 30 gallons of syrup an hour. With the new style arch it will produce 300 gallons of syrup on one cord of wood. Ray made a ton of syrup last season and only used 7 cords of wood. Ray has always been an innovator and this really shows through with his latest enterprise, building Reverse Osmosis Machines. To help out his fellow Amish neighbors he designed and built one of the first gasoline engine driven RO s in the industry. The last stop was Karl and Amber Evans just down the road from Rays, in Colebrook Township, Ashtabula County Karl runs 2400 taps and is a Leader Dealer on the

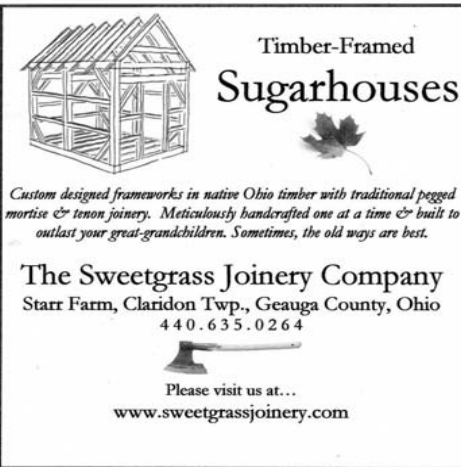
farm once owned by Francis Manes one of the original Leader dealers in Ohio. He also works with Ray installing tubing across the maple belt. This was a great way to spend a day in November in beautiful Northeast Ohio. *Les Ober, OSU Extension, Geauga County*

2012 Ohio Maple Days

The annual Ohio Maple Days workshops will be held January 26th, 27th, and 28th. See the 2012 Maple Days flyer in this newsletter. As in the past we will have a full day of activities and information for producers from all size operations. This year back by popular demand is Mr. Steve Childs from the New York Extension system. Steve will bring his knowledge in maple production and making maple confections to share with producers.

Also, as most should be aware of by now, Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) was discovered in Southern Ohio this summer. This beetle is a major threat to maple trees and as maple producers you are in woodlots all over Ohio and can help with efforts to keep this invader at bay by paying attention to your forest. Ms. Amy Stone, our statewide specialist working on the ALB issue will share the latest details that you need to know and how ALB will impact you as maple producers.

This year I will be sharing the results of a tap removal research project conducted at Roger Gortner's sugarbush in Ashland County and in Wisconsin. It looks at the timing of tap removal post seasons and its impact on the tree. Also the "Maple Nugget" session where I will share the latest news and issues in the national and international maple sector. I will also test your hydrometers and Vermont Temporary Maple Syrup Grading Kits. So be sure to bring them with you to the meetings. *Dr. Gary Graham, OSU Extension*



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Important Notice To Members

As of December 1, 2011 the Ohio Maple Producers Association address is moving to a new location. All mail, memberships and renewals should be sent to OMPA c/o OSU Extension, Geauga County, PO Box 387, 14269 Claridon Troy Road, Burton, Ohio 44021.

If you are registering for the **2012 Ohio Maple Days** please send all registrations to **OSU Extension, Dr. Gary Graham, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, Ohio 44691.**

Verona Bus Trip Planned

The Verona New York State Maple Conference is rapidly approaching. This year's dates are January 6-7, 2012. Many local producers have expressed interest in going but the distance and the weather can be a major problem. Many have also said if someone could put together a bus trip it would make the trip much more accessible. The Gingerich Family Sugarbush, LaPierre Dealers from Geauga County is organizing a bus trip to the 2012 conference. The trip will leave Geauga County on Friday and will arrive in Verona for the Friday evening program. The cost of the bus will be \$45 if fully loaded or \$90 for a half load. A \$75 non-refundable deposit is required by December 10, however if there is not enough for a half load the deposit will be refunded. Travelers will also have to register for the Verona program which is \$40 for the Friday and Saturday program which includes a light meal on Friday, continental breakfast on Saturday and lunch. Accommodations will be at Vernon Downs, a special rate of \$79 for conference attendees. The Gingerich Family will make the room reservations for interested parties. For more details and to sign up contact the Gingerich Family at 440-478-6201.

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Membership Renewal Time

Once again it is time to renew your membership in the Ohio Maple Producers Association. OMPA strives to serve/represent all maple producers in Ohio and the more members we have the better job we can do. If you are not a current member of the Ohio Maple Producers Association, please consider joining.

Every member is given a membership plaque and every year will receive the current year's decal for it. OMPA provides each member with a subscription to "The Ohio Maple News" and the "Maple Syrup Digest", both of which are published and mailed to you quarterly. You may also subscribe to "Farming" a free publication. OMPA also provides for its members syrup grading labels, Ohio maple cookbooks and education meetings - all at a reasonable cost. Take advantage of the membership form in this publication and send in your membership. OMPA will also have a membership table at all the January Ohio Maple Days meetings and we will be glad to sign you up at one of these meetings. (Please note memberships received after May 15th, the Maple Syrup Digest subscription will begin with the October issue rather than the June issue due to publishing deadlines.)

Dave Hively, OMPA Vice President/Membership Chairman

Northwest PA Annual Meeting

The Northwest Pa Maple Producers would like to welcome their fellow Ohio producers to their annual winter meeting. The meeting is held in Edinboro, PA with featured speaker Dr. Tim Perkins, from The Proctor Research Center. There will be a Friday evening session 6-9 pm and Saturday from 8-3 pm. The meeting is being held in the Edinboro Fire Social Hall. For registration contact Jan Woods, hurryhillfarm@verizon.net or 814-572-1358.



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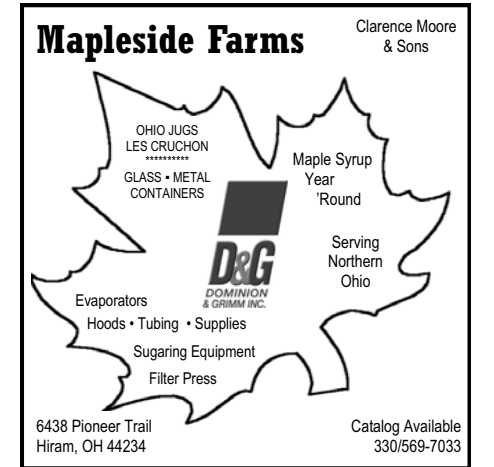
Notes From The President

Warmest wishes to all of you for the holidays. We have had a pretty great year! OMPA was at the Ohio Maple Days in January, the Ohio State Fair, Farm Science Review, and at the Geauga County Fair. We have had some good representation of the organization, let's keep it up!

In November was our OMPA annual meeting, which began at DeBonne Vineyards with lunch and a tour on Friday. Next stop, Observatory Park, one of Geauga Park District's newest jewels. The evening banquet was held at Middlefield Methodist Church with an Olde Thyme Sugarhouse Dinner, meeting, storyteller, Ohio State Fair awards presentation, election results, and auction. Saturday we began our day with a pancake breakfast and tour at 4-H Camp Whitewood. From there it was on to K-C Maple in Montville and Tom Salo's in Montville Heights. (a little joke for those who toured with us). Next was Bissel's with lots of tasty samples, followed by Ray and Laura Gingerich. Great lunch, scenery, and fellowship - who could ask for anything more? We ended our fabulous day at Karl and Amber Evan's place. Thank you to all who helped.

Ohio's standings in the IMSI/NAMSC meeting that was held in Frankenmuth, MI are as follows: **Novelty Products**, 2nd Place, Richards Maple Products, Maple French Dressing; 1st Place, Richards Maple Products, Chocolate Cover Maple Cream. **Medium Amber Maple Syrup**, 2nd Place, Aggie Sojka-Sperry, Gingerich Brothers; 1st Place, Dave & Nancy Hively, Misty Maple. **Light Amber Maple Syrup**, 1st Place, Dave and Nancy Hively, Misty Maple. **Best of Show** - Dave and Nancy Hively, Misty Maple.

If you haven't registered to be a stop on the March Maple Madness Driving tour please let me know right away! Email me ohiomaple@yahoo.com or call me at 440-286-4160. I wish you many blessings for the New Year. *Jen Freeman, OMPA President*



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