

# 2023 Pennsylvania State Maple Tour



## In conjunction with the **Lake Erie Maple Expo** **November 9, 10, 11, 2023**

The 2023 Pa Maple Tour is hosted by the NW PA Maple Syrup Producers Association. This year's tour will be a self-drive to Friday workshops around the area of Albion and Edinboro. A banquet will be held on Friday evening with the presentation of the Maple Ambassador. Saturday will include attending the Lake Erie Maple Expo at Northwestern High School in Albion, PA.

The Lake Erie Maple Expo (LEME) includes major maple manufacturers. LEME strives to bring in highly qualified maple producers and speakers from across the maple region. Over 50 vendors of products we use in the process of maple syrup will be available for you to interact with and purchase maple production supplies. LEME is sponsored by Northwest PA Maple Syrup Association, Ohio Maple Producers Association, Western New York Maple Producers Association, and the Albion FFA.



## 2023 Pennsylvania Maple Tour Schedule



### **Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> PMSPC Meeting**

--Conference Room at the Comfort Inn, 100 Market Place Drive, Edinboro, PA

--6:00 pm Tour Registration

--7:00 pm PA Maple Syrup Producers Council Meeting in the Conference Room

Light Refreshments will be provided for members attending the meeting.



### **Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> Tour, Workshops, Banquet**

- 9 am to 3 pm Choose one of the following workshops listed below and self-drive to the workshop.

Lunch is included with each workshop. Tour registration will be at the workshop.

#### **1. Beginners Backyard Sugaring**

Presenter: Laura Dengler (How Sweet It Is Sugarhouse) and Mark Lewis

Location: Northwestern High School Sugarhouse, 200 Harthan Way, Albion, PA 16401. Leave the Comfort Suite in Edinboro and turn right at the light. Travel 10 miles on 6N. In Albion, turn left onto Third Avenue. After 900 feet turn left onto Spring Ave. The sugarhouse is located at the southwestern end of the high school. Drive behind the school

Learn the basics of how to begin your hobby or small operation by tree identification, setting up your sugarhouse, tapping trees, boiling sap to the proper density, and bottling your syrup for retail. Parts of the workshop will be outside.

## **2. Maple Confections: Making Value Added Products**

Presenter: Shaver Hill Maple Farm, Harpersfield, NY

Location: Masonic Hall, John Williams Ave. Albion, PA Leave the Comfort Suite in Edinboro and turn right at the light. Travel 10 miles on 6N. In Albion, turn left at McDonald's on 6N in Albion, Masonic Hall in on the right-hand side on the corner of John William Ave. and Harthan Way.)

Dwayne, Mary Lee, David, and Scott (Shaver Hill Maple Farm) will present a hands-on demonstration of making maple sugar, maple cream, maple candy, and maple coated nuts. They will also demonstrate how to package and sell your products. All your questions will be answered on value added products.

## **3. Advanced Tubing and Vacuum Systems**

Presenter: Steve Child—Cornell University, Retired

Location: Boylan Maple 26308 Crossingville Rd., Edinboro, PA 16412 Turn right at the light as you leave the Comfort Suites, Travel US-6N West for 2.7 miles. Turn left onto PA-98. Drive 3.8 mi and turn right onto Crossingville Rd The sugarhouse is .6 miles on the right hand side.

## **4. Sugarbush Monitoring Systems**

Presenter: CDL and other manufacturers.

Location: Triple Creek Maple 9225 Fillinger Rd.,Cranesville, PA. Leaving the Comfort Suites turn right onto US-6N Travel 6 miles and turn right onto State Rd. Continue driving 3.5 miles and turn left onto Fillinger Rd. Triple Creek Maple will be a half mile on the left hand side.

Learn about the various designs of vacuum systems and the principles of choosing one for your use. Discover how they are set up and put into operation. Dress for being outside and inside.

## **5. Improving Your Syrup Quality**

Presenters: Les Ober--Ohio State University Ext. , Mike Rechlin—Future Generations University, WV

Location: Meet at the Northwestern High School Sugarhouse --200 Harthan Way, Albion, PA Leave the Comfort Suite in Edinboro and turn right at the light. Travel 10 miles on 6N. In Albion, turn left onto Third Avenue. After 900 feet turn left onto Spring Ave. The sugarhouse is located at the southwestern end of the high school. Drive behind the school

Les and Mike have developed a tap to table assessment tool to help sugarmakers see their operations differently. They will discuss the best practices for making high quality syrup. Dress for being outside

## **6. Basic Tubing System Installation**

Presenter: Jason Grossman, H<sub>2</sub>O Innovation

Location: Northwestern High School Sugarhouse -- 200 Harthan Way, Albion, PA Leave the Comfort Suite in Edinboro and turn right at the light. Travel 10 miles on US-6N. In Albion, turn left onto Third Avenue. After 900 feet turn left onto Spring Ave. The sugarhouse is located at the southwestern end of the high school. Drive behind the school

Jason will show us how to layout and install a basic vacuum tubing system. Dress for weather outside and inside

## **7. Sugarhouse Tours**

**Self-drive--** Leaving from the Northwestern Sugarhouse at 9 am, we will travel to the following sugarhouses. Leave the Comfort Suite in Edinboro and turn right at the light. Travel 10 miles on 6N. In Albion, turn left onto Third Avenue. After 900 feet turn left onto Spring Ave. The sugarhouse is located at the southwestern end of the high school. Drive behind the

**9:30 am** --Squirrel Creek Maple Products --9404 West Lake Road. Lake City, PA

Matthew Hickin--Come on a journey back in time to beautiful "Squirrel Creek Maple Products" powered by a 1937 James Lefell & Co. steam boiler, powering a one-of-a-kind steam evaporator. Supplied by around 500 taps. Check out our large collection of antique farm tractors on machinery on display as well. Listen for the sound of the whistle. You might need boots for this stop.

**10:30 am** —Triple Creek Maple—9225 Fillinger Road, Cranesville, PA 16410

Gary and Shirley Bilek--Triple Creek Maple is a family business that has been producing maple syrup since 1988. Over the past 30 years they have grown from 10 to 2000 tap operation using a tubing/vacuum system. Reverse

osmosis, and a wood pellet fired evaporator. Currently Gary and Shirley are researching and developing a new method of sap filtration in the evaporator. Triple Creek currently utilizes a CDL monitoring system to optimize sap production.

**11:30 am**—Casbohm Maple & Honey—9750 Sherman Road, Albion, PA 16401

Chris & Cheryl Casbohm--Visit with Chris and Cheryl to learn about making maple syrup and honey beekeeping. Tour the sugarhouse that displays many maple prints and antiques. View the many antique tractors Chris enjoys restoring. Lunch will be served here before our next stop.

**1 pm**—Hurry Hill Maple Farm & Museum—11424 Fry Road. Edinboro, PA 16412

Jan Woods and Lisa Nathanson--Travel back in time as we notice many exhibits featuring how maple syrup has been produced throughout the years and “tree to table” exhibits. Learn about and receive a copy the Newberry award winning children’s book *Miracles on Maple Hill* which tells a story about making maple syrup in northwest PA.

Note: If you desire to be part of the sugarhouse tour but not drive, contact Marge Phillips for carpooling.



## Friday Evening Banquet

6 pm Nick’s Place, 12246 Edinboro Rd. (Rt. 99) Edinboro, PA 814-734-5098

Directions: At the traffic light by the Comfort Suite, turn left and drive on 6N and drive about 2.2 miles to the traffic light in Edinboro. Turn left on Rt. 99. Travel 1.7 miles (just past the Sunview Golf) and turn left into the parking lot. Enjoy a sit-down meal with your choice of Chicken Cordon Bleu or Roast Sirloin. Your meal will also include an appetizer, beverage, salad, potatoes, vegetables, and a **Maple Dessert**.

The banquet will include the maple ambassador contest. Nomination for Maple Producer of the Year are being accepted. The winner will be announced at the banquet.

Thank you to **H2O Innovation** for sponsoring our banquet.



## Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> 8 am to 2 pm

Self-drive to the Lake Erie Maple Expo at Northwestern High School, 200 Harthan Way, Albion, PA

Directions: Leave the Comfort Suite in Edinboro and turn right at the light. Travel 10 miles on 6N. In Albion, turn left onto Third Avenue. After 900 feet turn left onto Spring Ave. Parking for Northwestern High School will be on the right hand side.

Choose from over 25 topics presented in 4 sessions. The classes are led by experts in all aspects of the maple industry. Vendors will be available for the purchase of your maple items needed for the upcoming season. Lunch is included,

- **Hydrometer Check:** Scott Weingart will be available to check your hydrometer for accuracy.
- **Maple Ambassadors** will be serving breakfast at LEME for you to purchase. Benefits the Maple Ambassador Scholarship Fund.



**Lodging:** Lodging reservations are the responsibility of the tour participants.

Reserve a room at the Comfort Suite, 100 Market Place Drive, Edinboro, PA. Mention “**Maple Tour**” to receive a room for \$95+ tax.

For more information or map to locations: [www.pamaple.org](http://www.pamaple.org) or call Bill or Marge Phillips 814-796-3699