

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CELEBRATING OUR MAPLE HERITAGE THROUGHOUT MARCH ON PA ROUTE 6

Maple producers are a key part of the history and heritage along PA Route 6. These skilled craftsmen have passed along traditional production methods and developed an extensive product line that proves that maple syrup is just not for breakfast anymore. Declaring that Pennsylvania has the best maple syrup and products in the country, the PA Route 6 Alliance is recognizing March as Maple Month across Route 6.

Northern Pennsylvania is home to the majority of award winning maple producers from the state's Farm Show; producers who practice traditions passed down through generations. From the How Sweet is it Farm in Saegertown on the western side of the corridor to the Journey's End on the eastern side. The Best Syrup of the Show was from Jim and Dora Tice's sugarhouse in Mainesburg and the top two winners in the Other Uses categories were Hamilton's Maple Products in Ulysses and Charles Nelson from Genesee. Tice's, Hamilton's, and Nelson are located in the center part of the corridor.

Recently the International Maple Syrup Institute released information on how maple syrup is lower in calories and higher in nutritional value than other commercially available sweeteners. Since it is all natural, it makes a perfect ingredient for the whole or green food diet. The maple producers along the PA Route 6 Corridor are making a variety of tasty treats including maple dressing, mustards, marinates, snacks and candy.

March, when the sap is flowing, is the perfect time to visit these producers and their neighboring sugar houses to learn more how each producer collects and processes a little different and to taste the array of new maple products being developed each year. Most of the awards winning producers are part of a regional maple weekend. The PA Route 6 Alliance encourages travelers to make a weekend out of it by staying at one of the nearby bed and breakfast or local inns. See the PA Route 6 website for lodging choices – www.paroute6.com.

One place not to miss to learn about the heritage of maple production is Hurry Hill Maple Farm and Museum, 11424 Fry Road, Edinboro (between MM 17N-18N), Pennsylvania's only museum dedicated to preserving and interpreting the art and craft of making pure maple syrup and related products. The museum is open on Sundays from 2-5pm throughout the spring, but tours can be arranged privately. For more information, see www.hurryhillfarm.org

Another place to learn about maple sugaring is at Keystone College in Factoryville (MM 322). On its Woodland Campus, the college has its own small maple sugaring operation that includes a sugar shack with a hobby-sized evaporator, and of course a sugarbush, where there are approximately 275 taps deployed. www.keystone.edu/woodlands/maplesugaring/

The following are the dates for the Maple Weekends across PA Route 6. Copies of maps and brochures can be found on the PA Route 6 website: www.paroute6.com under What To Do, Monthly Feature.

March 14 & 16, 2015

Northwest PA Maple Association Taste & Tour Weekend (Sites are near Mile Markers 00N – 27N and 23 – 98)

Fifteen sugarhouses in the northwestern counties of Crawford, Erie and Warren, including How Sweet It is Farm and the Hurry Hill Maple Museum, open their doors to the public on Taste & Tour Weekend. Come and visit with your local maple syrup producers and see "how it's done." See first hand the process of tapping the maple tree, collecting sap and boiling it down to make delicious syrup. Many maple sugar makers produce

additional confections from their syrup. Most have free samples available, as well as products for sale. For more information, call 814-333-1258 or visit www.pamaple.org

March 21 & 22, 2014

Northeast Maple Weekend

(Sites are Wayne, Pike, and Lackawanna Counties)

6th Annual Self-Guided Maple Tour, a tour of maple open houses in the Northeast PA region, predominately in Wayne County but also with stops in Pike and Lackawanna Counties. Enjoy locally produced maple products and learn more about today's producers of maple syrup. You can tour 10 area sugar bushes at your leisure, following the maple syrup making process from the tree to your table. Along the way, pick up some locally produced pure maple products. This event is free to the public. www.wayneconservation.org

Endless Mountains Maple Weekend

(Sites are near Mile Markers 234- 275)

A driving tour of maple open houses in the Endless Mountains Region of Bradford, Sullivan, Wyoming and Susquehanna Counties. Watch sap being boiled down, sample maple treats and lean the old age tradition of “sugaring” combined with some new technology.

www.pamapleassociation.com

11th Annual Maple Weekend, Potter and Tioga Counties

(Sites are near Mile Markers 175 – 244)

The Potter/ Tioga Pennsylvania Maple Weekend is a true tribute to all things maple. The Maple Weekend is a “traveling festival” that allows visitors to observe tree tapping, sugar boiling, and other maple-related activities in Potter and Tioga counties. Fifteen members of the Potter/Tioga Maple Producers Association open their sugar shack doors during Maple Weekend for a deliciously educational experience. For more information, visit www.pamaple.com

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