Meet the Speakers

Mr. Joe Polak, along with his wife Barbara own and operate Maple Hollow in Merrill Wisconsin. They operate a yearly 10,000 gallon packaging operation as well as a full sales and service equipment dealership. For 17 years Joe has served as the Secretary for the North American Maple Syrup Council and on many of its committees.

Mr. Dan Milo, is a Food Safety Supervisor with the Ohio Department of Agriculture Division of Food Safety, and a hobby maple producer in Northeast Ohio. Dan has been working for the benefit of Ohio maple producers at ODA for many years.

Ms. Cheryl Turner, is the Deputy Director of the Ohio Field Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture—National Agricultural Statistics Service and is a great promoter of all Ohio Ag. Products, especially Pure Maple Syrup.

Dr. Gary Graham, State Maple Syrup Specialist for Ohio State University Extension and County Educator in Agriculture and Natural Resources in Holmes County.

Questions For Speakers

Due to the complex and important topics to be discussed at the meetings we are asking participants to pre-submit questions. There will be time for questions at the meetings too. Pre-submitting questions will make sure that the speakers cover the information on the questions you the producers have.

(Be specific and give details in your Questions.)

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You can submit more details or questions on separate paper if needed.
To: All Interested Maple Producers & Enthusiasts

It’s time once again to make plans for the winter maple programs, and you are cordially invited to participate in the Winter 2017 Ohio Maple Days Workshops in Morrow, Wayne/Holmes and Geauga Counties. This year the Morrow Workshop will be held January 19, the Wayne/Holmes Workshop January 20, and the Geauga Workshop, January 21. As is our custom, essentially the same program will be offered at all three locations to help us all get ready for the 2017 maple season.

Pre registration is required to assure enough materials are made for the meetings

Topics To Be Covered:

Food Safety Act and Ohio Department of Ag Updates: The Food Safety Act contains a mandatory requirement of all maple syrup producers to register their operation. However depending on your operation you may or may not need to register. ODA will cover details and changes regarding sales of maple products and the sugaring operation inspection process.

Why Production Numbers Matter: This session will detail why each producer has an influence on the overall state production numbers. It will cover the myths and false concepts and rumors about doing your due diligence to report your production numbers.

Timing Of When To Tap: The 2016 season should have been an eye opener for many maple producers. Those that got out and tapped early did average and for some a little above average. Producers still tapping under a calendar date or a traditional date did not do very well. Some had a 4 to 6 day season. We will talk about tossing out the traditional dates and paying attention to the weather.

Bulk Syrup Prices and Quality Control: How to get the best price for bulk syrup when selling it on the open market. Covered will be the “Must Have’s Before Selling”. Must be graded, must know quality, must have representative samples to accompany barrels, must know what you have and the volume of what you have. All these and several other points to be covered will increase the prices you can receive for your products.

Registration and How It Has Helped the Wisconsin Maple Industry: In 2009 The State of Wisconsin Department of Ag passed Wisconsin Act 101 Law also called the “Pickle Bill”. Within the Pickle Bill that deals with home canned products was the requirement of maple producers to register if selling bulk syrup. Though not popular in the beginning it has helped the state the maple producers association and the prices of quality maple syrup in Wisconsin. The discussion will be on the Pros and Cons of such a registration system.

Maple Nuggets: Every year there are lots of important happenings, things and news to share that are important to maple producers. These items will be addressed during this session and any questions submitted with the registration form and not already answered by the speakers will covered here.

**** To Help Us Prepare we are asking that you pre submit your questions/concerns/comments regarding any of the topics to be presented at the meetings. (see back of this registration form) The meeting forum will allow for questions from the floor. Pre submitting questions will direct the program to emphasize what questions you the producers have. Handouts will be made available to participants at the meetings in regards to the topics being covered. Pre-registration is required to assure we have enough materials and meals.

Testing of Hydrometers: Hydrometers are vital in every sugaring operation so be sure they remain accurate. The papers can shift and readings will be off, which could run into finishing off too low of density and syrup could mold or ferment. If finished with too high of density the syrup will crystallize. Bring your hydrometers with you to the meetings for testing; that way you know going into the 2017 season you will be finishing your syrup at the proper density and proper color grade. This will be the last chance to have hydrometers tested at the Ohio Maple Days meetings.

Sincerely, Dr. Gary W. Graham, Ohio State University Extension Specialist, Natural Resources

Registration Form

Please return before January 12th

Please checkmark the meeting you are attending:

☐ Morrow County Meeting

Thursday, January 19, 2017 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Lutheran Memorial Camp

2790 State Route 61, Fulton, Ohio 43321

☐ Wayne/Holmes County Meeting

Friday, January 20, 2017 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Mennonite Christian Assembly Church

Wayne Co. Rd. 501, 10664 Fryburg Road, South of Fredericksburg, Ohio 44627

☐ Geauga County Meeting

Saturday, January 21, 2017 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Joe J.S. Miller’s Window Shop

15020 Shedd Road, Burton, Ohio 44021

Pre-registration is required

(Please list all who are attending)

Name (s):  ____________________________________________

2.  ____________________________________________

3.  ____________________________________________

4.  ____________________________________________

Address  ____________________________________________  City  ______________________  Zip _________

Telephone  ______________________________  Number Attending:  _____ X $30 = $

Pay at the door fee $35

Please make checks payable to:  OSU Extension

Registration Payment Deadline is January 12th

MAIL REGISTRATION TO:  OSU Extension

75 East Clinton Street, Millersburg, OH 44654

- NO REFUNDS AFTER JANUARY 16th -

Contact: Ashley Gerber—330-674-3015