

News Release

9-4-14

SAP PRODUCTION FOCUS OF FREE FOREST MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

The WV Maple Syrup Producers will host a seminar on managing forests to maximize tree sap production and profitability. Participants will spend time both in the classroom and the field. Topics should be relevant to beginning and experienced syrup producers and include:

- Managing woods for sap production; pre-sap collection harvest strategies
- Evaluating the potential of your woods for sap collection
- Layout of sap collection lines and tubing
- Recent research in sap collection technologies and the options they provide
- Financial analysis of sap collection and syrup production

The class will be held Monday, Nov. 3, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at John Dalen's Dry Fork Maple Works near Whitmer.

From Elkins, take US-33E/WV-55 to Harman (approximately 23 miles). Turn left onto County Route 29 through Jobe. Continue on County Route 29 until you reach Dry Fork Road on the right (County Route 40). Travel approximately six miles on County Route 40 and the intersection for the sugar camp will be on the right. Look for signs to direct you to the facility. GPS coordinates are 38° 45' 50.91" N by 79° 37' 24.87" W.

Presenters will be Dr. Michael Farrell, Director of Cornell University's Uihlein Forest, a maple sugar research and Extension field station, and Dr. Jamie Schuler, a silviculture specialist at West Virginia University and vice president of the West Virginia Chapter of the Society of American Foresters.

Farrell is also the author of *The Sugarmaker's Companion: an integrated approach to producing syrup from Maple, Birch and Walnut Trees*. In this piece Farrell says, "Proper forest management can increase per tree sap production by as much as 100% and sweetness by as much as 30%, while providing an income stream to help offset the costs of setting up your bush or replacing tubing."

There is no fee for the class, but there will be a nominal fee for a lunch snack at the location. Pre-registration is required by calling Cathy Hervey at 304-737-1889, or emailing wvmaplesyrupproducers@gmail.com.

The WV Maple Syrup Producers Association is for people interested in maple or firms involved with producing, processing and marketing maple syrup. Visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/wvmaplesyrup>.