



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

## Ritchie Helps Kick Off Maple Season

PATTY RITCHIE March 11, 2013

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### **Agriculture Committee Chair Lists Schedule of Events to Celebrate ‘Sugaring Season’**

State Senator Patty Ritchie attended a ceremonial tree-tapping, invited farmers to showcase their wares and tout the future of their industry, and announced a schedule of public events to mark the start of maple “sugaring season” in New York State.

Senator Ritchie, who chairs the Senate’s Agriculture Committee, joined in a tree-tapping ceremony at the Kenny family’s Sweet Creations maple farm in Madrid on Saturday.

On Tuesday, she will be joined at a meeting of the Senate Agriculture Committee by representatives of the New York Maple Producers Association, and update them on her efforts to gain increased state funding for promotion of maple products, as well as research to help grow the industry.

On Monday, the Senate was expected to give its approval to plans for an increase in state funding—which had previously been cut from the budget—for maple growers. It’s the third year that senator Ritchie has

successfully pushed for maple funding in the state budget.

“Maple growers are increasingly important to our state’s agricultural industry—responsible for tens of millions of dollars in sales and revenue every year,” said Senator Ritchie. “I’ve been working to call attention to this important sector of our agriculture industry, and highlighting the potential for growth in a state where just 2 percent of our available maple trees are currently being used to produce syrup.”

“I’m looking forward to hearing from producers their ideas on ways to grow the industry and help strengthen the bottom lines for hardworking New York farm families.”

According to recent numbers, New York is the #2 state after Vermont for maple production, responsible for 20 percent of all U.S. production. In addition, the value of maple syrup and other maple products in New York State was \$22 million in 2011.

Senator Ritchie also released a schedule of “Maple Weekend” events for the next two weeks at farms across Central and Northern New York, where the public can learn about the art of maple sugaring, enjoy community breakfasts, and purchase fresh-made maple products directly from the source.

Maple Weekend events in Central and Northern New York are as follows:

### **Oswego County**

#### **Maple Hill Farm**

- Hosts: Donald & Barbara Clonch
- 86 Guernsey Road, Hannibal, NY 13074-2329
- Open: March 16, March 17, March 23, March 24

#### **Maple Hollow Farm**

- Hosts: Tim & Rebecca Fowler & family
- 1309 County Route 85, Hannibal, NY 13074-2132
- Open: March 16, March 17, March 23, March 24

#### **Red Schoolhouse Maple LLC**

- Hosts: Kevin & Kim Enders
- 2437 County Route 4, Fulton, NY 13069
- Open: March 16, March 17, March 23, March 24

### **St. Lawrence County**

#### **Fine-n-Dandy**

- Host: Donald Finen
- 2620 County Rt. 35, Norwood, NY 13668
- Open: March 23, March 24

#### **Finen Maple Products**

- Hosts: Jim & Margaret Finen
- 529 Austin Ridge Rd, Norwood, NY 13668-3118
- Open: March 16, March 17, March 23,

#### **Sweeter Creations Sugar House**

- Hosts: Michael & Debra Kenny
- 348 Pearson Road, Madrid, NY 13660-3114
- Open: March 16, March 17, March 23, March 24

### **The Orebed Sugar Shack**

- Hosts: Jeff & Lori Jenness and family
- 503 Ore Bed Road, De Kalb Junction, NY 13630-3109
- Open: March 16, March 17, March 23, March 24

### **Tupper's Hilltop Maple Treats**

- Hosts: Kenneth & Jean Tupper
- 760 State Highway 68, Canton, NY 13617
- Open: March 16, March 17

### **Woody's Maple**

- Host: James Woodrow
- 418 Underwood Road, Hermon, NY 13652
- Open: March 16, March 17, March 23, March 24

### **Jefferson County**

#### **Massey Ranch**

- Host: Shawn Massey
- 20605 Combs Road, Watertown, NY 13601-5242
- Open: March 16, March 17, March 23, March 24

#### **Rudd's Family Maple Syrup**

- Host: Larry Rudd
- 16370 Balch Place, Mannsville, NY 13661-3228
- Open: March 16, March 17, March 23, March 24

#### **Tug Hill Sweets & Treats**

- Hosts: Wayne & Glenn Zehr
- 33871 County Rt 163, Copenhagen, NY 13626
- Open: March 16, March 17, March 23, March 24

For more information on Maple Weekend, click [here](#).

*(Pictured in the above photo from left to right are Sarah Rastley, St. Lawrence County Maple Princess Alternate, New York State Maple Queen Deidra Hill, Senator Ritchie, St. Lawrence County Maple Princess Kylea McAdam and St. Lawrence County Maple Princess Alternate Megan Parkman)*