

OUTDOORS

Maple trees and maple syrup

BY DANAE SCHAFER
MNDNR Forester Littlefork

It is maple syrup season. This wonderful natural treat is out there just waiting for you to make it. Native Americans were the first to figure out how to refine maple sap, and the method remains the same today.

The process of making maple syrup is relatively simple and inexpensive to try. The main thing you need is access to maple trees. There are several species of maple trees growing in Minnesota. There are also several kinds of maple that are grown as street trees or decorative trees. The kind grown for decorative purposes are generally not usable for the production of maple syrup. Another source of natural sweetener is birch sap. Birch trees are tapped in areas that don't have an abundance of maple. I've never had any luck tapping birch trees in the International Falls area.

Maple syrup can be made from the sap of: box elder, red, silver, sugar, and black maple. Boxelder, red, and silver maple are found in the forests of Koochiching county. Mountain maple also occurs here but as more of a shrub or understory species. Maple trees can be identified by their opposite branching and dis-

tinct maple shaped leaf with different species having unique characteristics. The bark ranges from smooth to shaggy depending on species. All maples produce their seed in samaras often described as seed helicopters. The best way to be sure you have a maple tree is to watch it the growing season before you want to tap and look at the leaves. Red maple can be found growing nearly anywhere except the deep swamp. It is a common component of our woods but rarely occurs in large concentrations. Box elder also grows in a variety of areas but can be found in concentration in areas of disturbance. Silver maple grow nearly exclusively along rivers and streams. Maple is an increasing component of forests across our state due to the absence of wildfire and because it is part of a more mature forest. If you want to produce a measurable volume of syrup you will need a fair number of trees relatively close to each other. It often takes 25-40 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup.

Be sure to research recommendations on size of trees to tap. Tapping too small or young of a tree will damage the tree. Multiple taps on a tree can also be damaging. Be especially careful to remove your spiles after you are done tapping so the tree can heal

and be ready for tapping again next year. Do not tap trees that may potentially be cut & used as sawtimber, as tapping creates a unique pattern in the wood and often introduces blue stain, an undesirable characteristic.

You know it is time to tap when temperatures are above freezing during the day and below freezing at night. Another sign to watch for is the opening of the flowers at the top of the tree. Different species will flow best at different times. To tap a tree you will need some sort of a spile. A spile is what you put into the tree for the sap to run out of into a container. Spiles can be handmade (out of wooden dowels, old bullet casings, or other such materials), or you can purchase metal ones designed specifically for tapping. For collection of the sap, you can use gallon jugs (water, juice, or milk) or ice cream buckets. More sophisticated operations use tubing and bags for collecting. Whatever you come up with, be sure to clean everything thoroughly. It is advised to use food grade products as you are creating a food product.

You will need containers and an area to store your sap to keep it cool. Sap is comparable to milk and can spoil if it gets too warm. After you have collected your sap you will need to boil it down to concentrate it to the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tapping is nearing the end of the season.

level you desire. The sugar content varies from less than 1- 2 % depending upon species and the year. The best place to boil the sap is outdoors. Some people use a kettle over an open fire. Others use stainless steel pans over modified wood stoves. Larger more permanent operations will have this all this set up in a 'sugar shack'. A sugar shack is a sheltered (to some degree), well-ventilated structure.

The last step is finishing. This is typically done in a more controlled environment such as on an outdoor burner or on a stove top. It is essential to filter your sap at this point. The filter can be cheesecloth, coffee or milk filters. This will separate out the fine silt-like sugars and other impurities that will collect in your sap. Once you have obtained

your desired consistency, put the heated syrup into sanitized glass canning jars immediately after removing from boiling heat. When the center of the lid pops (pulls down), this indicates the jar has sealed. If you don't get a good seal or sanitizing heat, the syrup will mold. If sealed correctly it will last a long time in your cupboard. Just put open unused portions in the refrigerator.

Tapping is allowed on MNDNR state forest lands at the discretion of the area forester. A \$25 permit gives you the option to tap up to 100 trees (\$0.25/tree).

Aside from producing sap for making maple syrup, maple trees are also beneficial in many other ways. They are a common yard tree as they often have brilliant fall colors. The flowers are an important food source for many insects early in the spring. Box elder and silver

maples are important parts of the floodplain ecosystem. Animals use the seeds and buds for food. Cavities in maple are used as nests or dens for many species. Maple is used for veneer, lumber, firewood, paper, and cardboard production.

Further resources and information about making maple syrup are abundant on the internet. Like many hobbies, everyone has their opinion on how to do it best. The UMN extension service has information available at this website: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/environment/trees-woodlands/homemade-maple-syrup/>.

■ Please note that the maple syrup season is nearing its end with our current warm temperatures. The author pulled her taps April 11th, last Saturday. It's a good time to start thinking about preparing for next year.

Public Notices

Public Notice

MINUTE SUMMARY
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE KOOCHICHING COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Held on Tuesday,
April 7, 2015; 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners
Pavleck, McBride, Skoe, Ecklund,
Adee
MEMBERS ABSENT: None

The County Board approved the April 7th meeting agenda; approved the minutes from the March 31, 2015 meeting; reviewed the March Vendor Payment Listing; authorized Board members' attendance to the April 20th "Why Treaties Matter" Roundtable at 6:00 p.m. at RRCC; authorized expenditure of up to \$17,000 for a check scanner for the County Treasury; authorized expenditure of up to \$1,200 for a PC replacement for the Land and Forestry Department.

2015/04-07 Motion by Skoe, seconded by McBride to approve the draft contract document for multi-year maintenance service of county maintained roads and bridges in the Northome, Mizpah, and Gem-mell area to specify the terms and conditions for bidding the service. Voting yes: Pavleck, McBride, Skoe, Ecklund, Adee. Motion carried.

000 The Board received notice on the hire of Andy Kittelson in the position of Transfer Station Operator.

000 The Environmental Services Director updated the Board on the activities for the County Aquatic Invasive Species Program to prepare for the upcoming boating season.

2015/04-08 Motion by McBride, seconded by Ecklund to rescind Board Motion 2015/02-07 appointing Quay Whitbeck to the County Board of Adjustments. Voting yes: Pavleck, McBride, Skoe, Ecklund, Adee. Motion carried.

2015/04-09 Motion by McBride, seconded by Adee accepting the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve a Conditional Use Permit (CUP 1502) to Martin Consulting, LLC on behalf of Verizon Wireless to erect a 134 foot tall monopole tower on property described as Lots 36 and 37 south of the Highway in Auditor's Plat 3. Voting yes: Pavleck, McBride, Skoe, Ecklund, Adee. Motion carried.

2015/04-10 Motion by McBride, seconded by Adee accepting the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve a Conditional Use Permit (CUP 1501) to Martin Consulting, LLC on behalf of Verizon Wireless to erect a 134 foot tall monopole tower on property described as Lots 31 and 32, Plat of

Goldville. Voting yes: Pavleck, McBride, Skoe, Ecklund, Adee. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

A full copy of the minutes is available on the County website at www.co.koochiching.mn.us and for public inspection at the County Administration Office during regular business hours.

**The Journal
April 18th, 2015**

Public Notice

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 10, 2008

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$54,318.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Ronald W. Chapman, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on October 16, 2008 as Document Number A000263987 in the Office of the County Recorder of Koochiching County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 18, less the East 2.5 feet of the North 40 feet and all of Lot 19, Block 88, Plat of Block 88 (And Other Blocks) International Falls, Koochiching County, Minnesota

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 912 8TH STREET, INT'L FALLS, MN 56649

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Koochiching County, Minnesota

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$54,877.89

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR (LENDER): Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 92.007.88180

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE ID NUMBER (MERS NUMBER): None

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes;

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 21, 2015 at 10:00 am

PLACE OF SALE: Koochiching County Sheriff's office, 715 Fourth Street, International Falls, Minnesota

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on November 23, 2015.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: March 23, 2015

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By: /s/ Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
*Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(15-0391-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A
DEBT COLLECTOR.

**The Journal
March 28th
April 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th
& May 2nd 2015**

Public Notice

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 361
NOTICE OF BIDS

The School Board of Independent School District 361, International Falls, MN will receive sealed bids in the Office 126 of Falls High School, 1515 Eleventh Street, International Falls, MN 56649 until 10:00 AM, Thursday, May 14, 2015. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time.

**FALLS HIGH SCHOOL
ROOF REPLACEMENT**

Bid form, plans and specifications may be obtained from: Falls High School, Office 126, International Falls, MN 56649. All bids must be accompanied by a certified check or bid bond payable to ISD 361, in the amount of 5% of the base bid. The School Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and waive any irregularities and/or technicalities. Bids will be one lump sum, not segregated. This is a Prevailing Wage Project.

A mandatory pre-bid walk thru of the project must be arranged 218-240-1525, Gordon Dault, Clerk of the School Board, ISD 361

**The Journal
April 18th, 22nd & 25th, 2015**



DO YOU OR SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY STRUGGLE WITH ADDICTION, CHRONIC PAIN OR ALCOHOLISM?

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International Falls, MN 56649
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Please call 218-283-2010

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Sun., May 3rd
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