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For immediate release

THREE SCHOOLS WIN MAPLE SYRUP CONTEST AND EXPERIENCE A SWEET JOURNEY

Ithaca, NY— New York Agriculture in the Classroom and the New York State Maple Foundation are pleased to announce the winners of the second annual Schoolyard Sugaring: Maple Syrup Contest. In this contest, students and teachers were exposed to the time, patience, and science it takes to turn sap into syrup by participating in every step of the maple syrup production process from tapping the trees to bottling the syrup.

Over seventy K-12 teachers initially registered their classrooms to participate, and each classroom was equipped with a book, lesson plans, and an empty syrup jug to fill with their syrup and return for judging. We would especially like to thank Sugarhill Container, a division of Hillside Plastics, who donated the 1/2 pint “Taste the Tradition” branded jugs for each class to fill up with their own maple syrup. Schools were paired by request with a local maple syrup producer who mentored the students through the process by either visiting their classrooms or inviting them to their sugarbush. In this hands-on experience, students were exposed to careers in maple production and got a sense of the unpredictability the industry faces each year as it relates to weather.

In the classroom, the elementary students read the book “Sugar on Snow by Nan Parson Possiter or “Maple Syrup from the Sugarhouse” by Laurie Lazzaro Knowlton and the middle and high school students received “The Sugarmaker’s Companion” by Dr. Michael Farrell or “Maple Syrup: An Introduction to the Science of a Forest Treasure” by Dr. Michaels Rechlin. These titles were paired with lessons that taught students the basic syrup-making principles including vocabulary, sequencing the syrup-making process, making and using a hydrometer, and role-playing the economic differences between the syrup industry in the United States and in Canada.

Fifty entries were submitted for judging by a panel of maple producers. Each entry was scored for sugar content, clarity, color, and taste. The 1st place classroom in each division will receive \$250, co-sponsored by New York Agriculture in the Classroom and the New York State Maple Foundation. The top three rankings and honorable mentions are included in the results.

Additionally, a photography contest was held concurrently and the classroom with the best submitted photograph in each division will win \$50.



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New York Agriculture in the Classroom and the New York State Maple Foundation would like to thank each school that participated in the contest for increasing the agricultural literacy of their students. The combined hope of the two organizations that students will grow an appreciation and changed perspective about the maple and agricultural industries in New York and grow in their awareness and understanding of New York’s food and fiber systems. To enter your classroom in a future contest, or to volunteer your time as a mentor maple producer, please contact nyaitc@cornell.edu.

For more information about the National Agriculture in the Classroom Schoolyard Sugaring contest, visit the New York Agriculture in the Classroom website at www.agclassroom.org/ny. New York Agriculture in the Classroom is an outreach program of Cornell University, with a goal to increase the agricultural literacy of our students so that they may be able to understand and communicate the source and value of agriculture as it affects their daily lives.

Elementary Division:

Place	School	Teacher	Maple Partner
1 st	ER Andrews	Jessica Tomcho and Kathleen Orth	Orth Farms
2 nd	Port Leyden Elementary	Kerin Markham	Markham’s Maple Shanty
3 rd	Wells Central School	Mrs. Bovee	Country Cabin Maple Syrup, Lee & Debbie Welch
HM	Prattsburgh Central School	Jeffrey Herrick	Prattsburgh FFA
HM	Lisbon Central School	Katelyn Driscoll	Finen Maple Products
HM	DeRuyter Central School	Stephanie Locke	DeRuyter FFA

Photography Contest Winner– Town of Webb UFSD, Jeremiah Best

Middle School Division:

Place	School	Teacher	Maple Partner
1 st	Malone Middle School	The STEAM Team	
2 nd	Southern Cayuga	Kimberly Davidson	
3 rd	Hawk Meadow Montessori School	Lisa Dunne	

Photography Contest Winner– Malone Middle School, STEAM Team

High School Division:

Place	School	Teacher	Maple Partner
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1st	Stockbridge Valley	Erin McCaffrey-Smith	
2nd	Southern Cayuga	Kimberly Davidson	
3rd	Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School	John Antoski	
HM	Berne Knox Westerlo Central School	Michaela Kehrer	Fletcher Hill Farm, Bittersweet Maple, Grippin Family Farm
HM	Pavilion Central School	Catherine Johnston	Happy Hill
HM	Lowville Academy and Central School	Melvin Phelps	Ken & Dawn Sweredoski

Photography Contest Winner– OCM BOCES, Chad DeVoe

Winning Maple Photographs

Elementary Division – Town of Webb UFSD, Jeremiah Best



Middle School Division – Malone Middle School, Kitty Eldridge & The STEAM Team



High School Division – OCM BOCES, Chad DeVoe



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