

International Maple Museum Centre

Maple Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

May 17th, 2025

7:00 – 9:30 am Pancake Breakfast
10:00 am Opening Ceremonies
Invocation—Mr. Keith Zehr
Master of Ceremonies— Mr Donald Moser
Hall of Fame Induction

Inductees: 2025 - Mr. David Hamilton
Mr. Timothy Wilmot



Aubrin Lee

Mr. Ray Bonenberg will present each inductee with a lapel pin and plaque to commemorate their inclusion into the Hall of Fame. We appreciate the cooperation of North American Maple Syrup Council who donate the pins and plaques for the inductees each year - Thank you.

Following
Photos

Special: Warren Wells Family Display Unveiling

12:00 Luncheon—Take outs & sit down available

All Day

Maple Syrup Equipment
Museum Tours & Displays
Gift Shop Open
Craft Fair On Lawn



Macy Zehr

In Recognition

Each year the Board of Directors of the American Maple Museum takes this opportunity to honor someone, who with time and dedication, has helped the museum become so successful.

Northern Federal Credit Union—The Museum would like to extend our Thank You for all the help and donations that you have made to the International Maple Museum Centre this past year.

The Board of Directors of the International Maple Museum Centre would also like to thank all the volunteers that have given up their time to help at breakfast's and dinners through out the year.



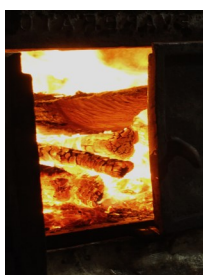
Reyna Lyndaker



Annabel Pelo



Karley Ferguson



Cassidy Dekin



Tyler Zehr



David Hamilton

2025 International Maple Hall of Fame Recipient

David Hamilton—New Castle, Indiana

David Hamilton was first exposed to the world of maple syrup when he married Carol Ann Rutherford in 1963. The Rutherford Sugar Camp dates back to 1911 when Carol's grandfather, Lewis Rutherford began tapping trees in east central Indiana. Dave and Carol took over the operation when her father, Bill, passed away in 1977. The name of our camp remains the Rutherford Sugar Camp in his honor. In 1981 a new sugar house was built one fourth mile south of the original camp. This season marks the 60th year of processing pure maple syrup for Dave and Carol with the help of son Doug, his partner, Xiaobin Chen, son Craig, wife Cara and Granddaughter Laura. Laura represents the fifth generation sugar maker. The daily Rutherford Sugar Camp crew consists of Gary & Melvin Hawks, Brad Fellers, with help from my nephew Gary Hamilton. I would not be able to continue to make syrup without their valuable assistance.



Dave is a founder and charter member of the Indiana Maple Syrup Association, and has held several offices in that organization. He was President for ten years and a board member for many years. He has also been active in the state association's involvement in the Pioneer Village of the Indiana State Fairs Hoosier Sugar Shack. For many years he chaired the volunteer work schedule for the sugar shack. He also has helped prepare syrup for the fair and has worked several days at the fair along with Carol.

For several years Dave was the Indiana Delegate to the North American Maple Syrup Council and served on the following committees: the nominating committee, the strategic planning committee, the by-laws & constitution committee, the membership committee, and the education committee. In 2014 & 2015 he served as president of NAMSC. In 2016 he was awarded the Special Recognition award from NAMSC. In 2024 Dave & Carol were presented with a Lifetime Honorary Member Award from the Indiana Maple Syrup Council.

The knowledge I have gained because of my involvement with the North American Maple Syrup Council has resulted in many improvements in my sugar house. I am very appreciative of being inducted, along with many giants of the maple industry, into the International Maple Syrup Hall of Fame. It is the highest honor a sugar maker may achieve. I share this honor with a number of people, both from Indiana and all the maple producing states and provinces, who have influenced me in many positive ways to make me a better sugar maker.



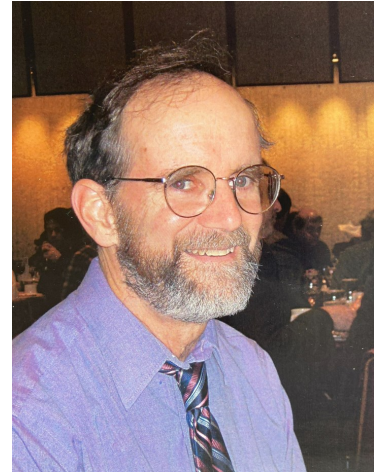
Timothy Wilmot

2025 International Maple Hall of Fame Recipient

Timothy Wilmot—Underhill, Vermont

Tim Wilmot: A summary of my career as a maple researcher, 1986 to 2018.

In 1986 I finished a master's degree in Botany at the University of Vermont and was invited by the new director Dr. Mel Tyree to join the staff of the UVM Proctor Maple Research Center. At that time, I had no experience with sugaring and not a lot of knowledge of how it was done. After discussions with several scientists and at the recommendation of Sumner Williams, assistant director of the Proctor Center, I decided to investigate sugarbush fertilization, which became my first major research subject. At that time there was great concern on both sides of the border about maple decline, perhaps due to acid rain, or other conditions, and interest in whether supplementing forest nutrition could counteract this phenomenon. For the next 3-4 years I designed and implemented a study, with the help of two Proctor technicians, at seven sugarbushes in Northern VT located on stands that ranged from healthy to badly declining. This project involved sampling soil and foliar nutrition, adding nutrients to parts of the stands, and rating the conditions of many of the individual trees in each stand both before and after fertilization. The results showed some improvement due to nutrient addition, but also natural improvement likely due to underlying geology or increased rainfall. The results were published in three scientific journals and were presented at several meetings in the US and Canada. In addition, I produced a brochure, with Dr Tim Perkins, on sugarbush nutrition and fertilization, which can be seen at <https://mapleresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/fertsugarbush.pdf>. The goal of this brochure was to direct the study's findings to sugarmakers rather than to a broader scientific audience. From this point forward and for the remainder of my maple career I tried to aim my research results toward sugarmakers, rather than an academic audience, attempting to show producers the reason for the studies and to make my results clear and understandable. I hope I succeeded. Over the years I presented at meetings all across the maple region, from Wisconsin and Indiana to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and south to Virginia and West Virginia. In addition, my study results appeared in print through the Maple Syrup Digest, the Maple News, through a column in New England Farmer, and via many other methods.



Soon another pressing issue evolved in the maple world—the question of lead in maple syrup. There was much concern about where the lead was coming from—was it from the trees, or from various pieces of sap collecting, processing and/or storage materials? I helped design a study to answer some of these questions, and with the aid of a Proctor technician visited a number of sugarbushes in search of data. We collected sap and syrup that had passed through metal spouts and buckets, plastic tubing, various pumps, boiled in back and front pans of different manufacture, and stored in old and new drums. While I cannot take credit for the major changes that took place over the next few years in the manufacture and use of sap and syrup equipment, it was clear that this research opened the eyes of many producers, particularly those using more “traditional” methods such as collecting sap in galvanized buckets, boiling in lead-soldered pans, and storing syrup in heavy duty galvanized drums, or milk cans. A brochure, “Keeping Lead Out Of Maple Syrup”, was written with myself as the primary author, and distributed widely: <https://agnr.osu.edu/sites/agnr/files/imce/pdfs/maplesyrup/KeepingLeadOutofMapleSyrup.pdf>

In addition, I spoke to many audiences around the maple world about our findings, and also discussed the possibility of lead addition from practices such as delaying the emptying galvanized buckets, or excessive pumping of sap with lead-containing bronze gear pumps. I visited several equipment manufacturers, including Leader Evaporator, Waterloo Small and Dominion and Grimm, where new welded equipment was being made in order to show my audiences the new choices that were becoming available. This was one example of how maple manufacturers in the U.S. and Canada had generously provided factory floor tours and discussions with me about how equipment was made, including the new polyethylene tubing that became available in the 90's, so that I could share in many presentations with my audiences the various manufacturing methods and properties of these materials.

Another topic of presentations provided at a number of NAMSP conferences, was an explanation of the maple sap flow mechanism in terms that were easily understandable; presenting work that had been in progress for decades by scientists at the Proctor Center by noted researchers like Jim Marvin. While in years subsequent to this there has been much research that described the science of sap flow, a lot of which has appeared in scientific journals, I tried to create a visual explanation of what was happening in the trees we tap. Over the years I refined my presentations by adding data that I had collected showing changes in pressure within the trunk during the spring. Con't...



I found sensors that could measure pressures in the ranges occurring in maple trees, installed them in tapholes, and connected them to data loggers. Data loggers allow the possibility to collect electric signals in short intervals, which might correspond to what is put out by a pressure sensor or a temperature monitoring thermocouple. Many thermocouples were installed in tree trunks and in small branches, some as high up as 54'. The data loggers had been used extensively by Tim Perkins in his own research and from him I learned how to program them and connect them to various sensors.

Data loggers are powered by batteries, so they could be located anywhere in the woods. I built a shed a few hundred yards from our lab, which housed a computer connected to our internet via a fiber optic cable, and was able to present data in real time on our website. Eventually I created a system to monitor pressure, temperature and sap flow simultaneously, so that it was visible to anyone. Sugarmakers could look at the data, and see whether the tree branches had frozen overnight, how this was affecting the pressures, and how sap flow was responding. In some cases, sugarmakers near the Proctor Center, learned when to hurry home and start checking their tanks. This system we called Treemet, and it ran for many years.

<https://www.themaplenews.com/story/58-top-performer/28/> Using this data, I wrote some articles for sugarmakers explaining what was happening, including one called “Temperatures in the Sugarbush” that showed how the freezing temperatures that could initiate sap flow were related to the temperatures in small branches, often high in the crowns, and not necessarily related to the temperatures we measure at home or through the National Weather Service. <https://www.uvm.edu/d10-files/documents/2024-10/temperaturesinsugarbush2006.pdf>.

At the Proctor Center we collaborated on several studies, such as the difference between what were then “standard” 7/16” spouts and the new small 5/16” spouts, in terms of both sap flow and wounding. A complementary study I conducted took place over several sap seasons, and examined the timing of tapping in regard to sap yield. This study involved comparing yields from groups trees where sap was collected under either gravity or vacuum. Collecting sap under vacuum from individual trees had become possible at the Proctor Center due to the use of new clear plastic 4-gallon tanks designed by Tim Perkins, and used in many subsequent studies. At the time I started this project, the common wisdom among many producers was that tapholes drilled too early would “dry up” well before the ideal sap flow weather ceased so I divided the groups of trees into 3 tapping dates: early January, mid-February, and early-mid March; the latter had usually been the traditional tapping date for many Vermont producers. Over the course of this study, I was able to show that holes drilled much earlier than the traditional date usually remained active right through the end of the season, and when the January tapped holes started to slow in March or April, the total sap collected usually still exceeded the sap volume from the later tapped holes due to the collection of sap during mid-winter thaws. These results were shared at many maple meetings.

Another study in which I used vacuum sap collection chambers was a comparison of sap yield from trees that had one tap or two, using groups of trees averaging either 16” in diameter, or 19.5” in diameter. In addition to collecting sap, I used pressure sensors connected to data loggers, as described above, to show where in the trunk the sap was coming from. Thus, I was able to show the area of the trunk affected by the taphole, and how the second taphole, over time, “shared” the same part of the trunk in terms of sap flow. <https://mapleresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/0613yieldsoneortwotapholes.pdf>

Data from this study became one small part of a much larger project involving a number of researchers at the Proctor Center who were developing new tapping guidelines for the maple world.

Around 2002, with the retirement of then Extension Specialist Larry Myott, I became the new University of Vermont Extension Maple Specialist, remained housed at the Proctor Center where I was able to continue to share ideas and results with my fellow Proctor researchers. One of my new duties, and one that I’m proud of, was working with fellow Extension specialist George Cook to develop the new Vermont Maple Conferences. Previously, Vermont held January maple meetings in each county. These consisted primarily of a social gathering and meal, a presentation from the head of the Vermont Association Bill Clark, from a Vermont Department of Agriculture representative, and from a Proctor representative, with little other content. We decided to substitute January conferences at key locations around the state (eventually 2 or 3 locations) that emphasized education, where each hour sugarmakers would have choices of a range of presentations from fellow sugarmakers, researchers, and state professionals covering many topics. A system like this had already been established with one major maple “school” in New York state. While something perhaps was lost by the social gathering of sugarmakers from a common county, I believe much was gained in providing producers with the ability to learn more from researchers and successful colleagues who could share their knowledge and experience and initiate discussions within each class. A form of these Vermont conferences continues today, with much of the content also available online in addition to in-person.

Con’t....





Another Extension duty that I enjoyed was helping to advise county groups, who rotated yearly, in putting on the Vermont summer tour, “Maplerama.” I made new friends among each group, learned new things about the counties and their producers, and shared the satisfaction of participating in the presentation of a large and complex event with my adopted county.

There were some additional projects that I initiated as an Extension specialist. Using my botany background I developed presentations about invasive plants in the sugarbush. Several of the sites that I visited, particularly in Southern and Central Vermont, were becoming overrun with non-native plants such as Japanese barberry, honeysuckle, and European buckthorn, all of which crowd out maple seedlings and can provide a home for ticks - a growing problem in sugarbushes. I worked with Vermont county foresters and professional forest management consultants to develop information, workshops and presentations about this issue. Questions about invasive plants and ticks were added to a yearly survey that I managed at the end of each sugaring season, along with questions about sap yields in relation to tubing design, grades of syrup made, tapping depth, etc. An example of the results from a yearly “tapping survey” can be found here: <https://mapleresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/tappingsurvey2012.pdf>

One more large goal around which I developed several years of research was how to improve gravity sap collection. I was familiar with many producers who were using 5/16” gravity tubing (i.e. without attachment to a vacuum pump) who usually had poor sap yields compared to producers using pumps. Many of these producers had too few trees to justify the expense of a pump, or their stands of trees were too separated from each other and too far from electricity to power a pump. How could I improve their sap yields? For several years I had been interested in how sap could flow through a very small diameter tubing (as small as 1/16” diameter, pressed into a hole in the trunk of that diameter) and form a continuous column of sap. After thinking about the physics of this phenomenon, I decided to experiment with different diameters of tubing attached to actual maple tapholes. All of the “equipment” that I began using came from scientific supply catalogs, including the tubing (very stiff at the beginning) and tiny fittings meant for various plumbing applications in research. After another year or two of additional trials, I found that 3/16” tubing was the best size to use, as it was much smaller than standard maple tubing and thus could provide a solid column of sap (and provide vacuum) under most sap flow events, yet large enough that the fittings would be reasonably robust and hold up under tension when stretched between trees. I collected sap from trees on a steep slope along a ravine at the Proctor Center. The results were quite promising—I achieved very high vacuum in the lines and the sap yield was quite good. The following year Gary Gaudette of Leader Evaporator agreed to make several rolls of 3/16” tubing using the Leader Extruder. Results continued to be excellent. Soon, I talked Dominion and Grimm into making and selling 3/16” tubing (I have never had an economic stake in this research) and soon after this several companies began making 3/16” tubing using various formulas (mostly of different rigidity) as well as fittings. I continued to experiment with various ways to set up the tubing, wrote articles about this research, and made many presentations around the maple world. One of my first was <https://mapleresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/0612highvacuumgravitytubing.pdf>

After retiring from the University of Vermont I was hired by Benoit Pepin of Dominion and Grimm to continue research on 3/16”. Within a few years there seemed to be considerable interest in using 3/16” tubing in conjunction with high vacuum pumps, but eventually these pumps became so efficient that there was probably little reason to supplement vacuum with gravity. Other issues, including plugging of the smaller fittings with bacteria or other scum over a period of years were reported and studied by some researchers. I remain convinced that for the same producers who I originally targeted, those with smaller operations on good slopes, 3/16” tubing can be a valuable tool to aid production, and am heartened by occasionally reading letters or articles in maple publications by sugarmakers who are likewise convinced that 3/16” tubing is what they prefer.



Members of the Maple Hall of Fame

May 28, 1977

Professor Fred Winch - Ithaca, NY

May 20, 1978

Robert M. Lamb - Bernhards Bay, NY
Dr. Charles O. Willits - Philadelphia, PA
Verne A. Wicks - Harrisville, NY

May 12, 1979

Dr. James Marvin - Burlington, VT
Adin Reynolds - Aniwa, WI
Samuel Zehr - New Bremen, NY

May 17, 1980

Professor Josh A. Cope - Ithaca, NY
Leon Wright - Farmersville, NY
Erwin Yancey - Croghan, NY
Joseph Yancey - Croghan, NY

May 16, 1981

Ture Johnson, Burton, OH
Lloyd Sipple - Bainbridge, NY
Nelson Widrick - Croghan, NY

May 15, 1982

Edward Ferrand - State College, PA
Walter Humphreys - Barrie, ON
Everett Valentine - Harrisville, NY

May 14, 1983

Gordon Brookman - South Dayton, NY
Linwood B. Lesure - Ashfield, MA

May 19, 1984

Edward A. Curtis - Honesdale, PA
Putman W. Robbins - Michigan State Univ.

May 18, 1985

Robert B. Huxtable - Lansing, MI
Fred M. Laing - Burlington, VT

May 17, 1986

Russell M. Davenport - Shelburne Falls, MA
Dr. Robert Morrow - Ithaca, NY

May 16, 1987

Gordon Gowen - Alstead, NH
Ronald Shaw - Hawkestone, ON

May 14, 1988

Arthur E. Merle - Attica, NY
Paul S. Richards - Chardon, OH

May 20, 1989

Robert Coombs - Jacksonville, VT
A.R.C. Jones - Montreal, QC

May 19, 1990

Ray Foulds - Burlington, VT
Elmer Kress - Oxford, CT

May 11, 1991

Clarence F. Coons - Kemptville, ON
Dr. Mariafranca Morselli - Burlington, VT

May 9, 1992

Edward Doubleday - Newport, VT
Harold Tyler - Westford, NY

May 8, 1993

Charles Bacon - Jaffrey Center, NH

May 14, 1994

Kenneth Bascom - Alstead, NH
James Bochy - Somerset, PA

May 13, 1995

Wilson S. (Bill) Clark - Wells, VT
Lynn H. Reynolds, Hortonville, WI

May 11, 1996

John Kroll, Long Prairie, MN
Everett Willard - Derby, VT

May 10, 1997

Melvin R. Koelling - Macon, MI
Lewis J. Staats - Lake Placid, NY

May 16, 1998

Giles Croteau - St Antione-de-Tilly, QC
Leslie Lyndaker - Croghan, NY
Marjorie Palmer - Hinesburg, VT

May 15, 1999

Dr. Melvin Koelling - Mason, MI
Florence Lamb - Bernhards Bay, NY



Members of the Maple Hall of Fame

May 20, 2000

Gary J. Gaudette - St. Albans, VT
Richard G. Haas - Turners Falls, MA
Warren E. Wells - Nassau, NY

May 19, 2001

Avard Bentley - Westchester, Nova Scotia
Marion Paul - Lenark, ON
Robert S. Smith - Skowhegan, ME

May 18, 2002

Dr. Randall B. Heiligmann, Dublin, OH
Richard P Norman - Woodstock, CT

May 17, 2003

George Fogle - Mason, MI
Roy S. Hutchinson - Canterbury, NH

May 15, 2004

Larry Myott - Ferrisburgh, VT
Steve Selby - Swanton, VT

May 21, 2005

Hank Peterson - Londonderry, NH
Bill Robinson - Auburn, ON

May 20, 2006

Ralph K. Curtis - New Foundland, PA
Roger Sage - Warsaw, NY

May 19, 2007

Luc Lussier - Plessisville, QC
David R. Martin - Hyde Park, VT

May 17, 2008

William E. Brown - Fredericktown, OH
Sam Cutting III - Ferrisburgh, VT

May 16, 2009

Norman Anderson - Cumberland, WI
Dr. Fred Taylor - South Burlington, VT

May 15, 2010

Bruce Bascom - Alstead, NH
Bruce Martell - Ferrisburgh, VT

May 21, 2011

Earl Parker - West Chazy, NY
Carl E. Vogt - Maple Grove, MN

May 19, 2012

Dave Chapeskie- Spencerville, ON
Michael A. Girard- Simsbury, CT

May 18, 2013

Jerry Kless - Plessisville, QC
Dale W. McIsaac - Amherst, Nova Scotia

May 18, 2014

Jacques Couture - Westfield, VT
Don & Betty Ann Lockhart - Charlotte, VT

May 18, 2015

Debbie J. Richards - Chardon, OH
Cecile B. Pichette - St-Lin, QC

May 14, 2016

Henry Marckres- Brookfield, VT
Yvon Poitras- NBeaver Dam, NB

May 13, 2017

Tom McCrumm- Ashield, MA
John Henderson- Oshawa, ON

May 12, 2018

Bruce Gillilan- Fletcher, VT
Eric Randall- Alexander, NY

May 11, 2019

Kathryn Hopkins- Skowhegan, ME
Michael Herman- Brome, QC

May 16, 2020

Joe Polak- Merrill, WI
Ray Bonenberg- Pembroke, ON

May 15, 2021

Mark Harran- Litchfield, CT
Dr. Timothy Perkins- Newport, VT

May 14, 2022

Dr. Gary Graham- Wooster, OH
Steve Childs- Stewartstown, PA

May 13, 2023

Pamela Green- Poultney, VT
Simon Trepanier-

May 11, 2024

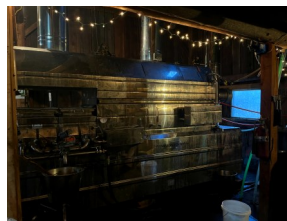
Stu Peterson- Dent, MN
Yves Bois- Quebec

Members of the Maple Hall of Fame

May 17, 2025

David Hamilton—New Castle, IN

Timothy Wilmot—Underhill, VT



Photos are the compliments of the Beaver River Central School Photography Classes who participated in the NYS Agriculture in the Classroom—Schoolyard Sugaring Contest.

The Board of Directors is very dedicated to the preservation of the museum and what it stands for. We are proud of the maple industry that has been so prevalent in many of our lives. We want a facility that our young people can tour to learn about the maple syrup making process beginning with the Indians to present day activities. We want an institution that adults can tour to revive memories and to understand how hard people have worked to produce the maple syrup we all enjoy. We are determined that the history of the maple syrup industry is preserved.

Since the opening of the International Maple Museum Centre (formerly known as American Maple Museum) in 1977, the museum has been able to operate on funds from donors, social events, contributions, sustainability campaign and fund raising activities. We are always looking for corporate and individual sponsors and would like to take this opportunity to welcome new patrons to this campaign drive.

Directors of the American Maple Museum



*Donald M. Moser,
President—International Maple Museum Centre*

President - Donald Moser
Co-Vice President - Nadeen Lyndaker
Co-Vice President - Tim Farney
Secretary - Pat Farney (Temporary)
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Bruce Widrick, Scott Zehr,
Todd Simpson, Warren Allen,
Pat Farney, Kevin Ardison. Luke Moser
Executive Director/Site Administrator—
Jennavieve Edwards

Trustee Emeritus

Gary Chartrand, Vernon Lyndaker, Jill Bush,
Ashley Marolf, Dale Moser

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