

# Northwest Maple Producers Meet

SPARTANSBURG (Crawford Co.)—The 31st annual meeting of the Northwest Maple Producers' Association was held at the Spartansburg Fire Hall recently.

President Dave Livingston welcomed producers and gave opening remarks with speaker introductions.

The featured speaker of the day was Russ Walters, research forester, principal silviculturist. Russ presented a slide show on "Gypsy Moth in the Sugar Bush."

Russ started off with how the gypsy moth originated back in 1869, brought over from Europe to develop a silkworm. Today the gypsy moth has affected areas from Maine to Pennsylvania.

Russ went over the various oak trees the moth prefers. The maple tree is not the most preferred species, but it is intermediate with a 5 percent mortality rate. Next he went over the four stages of complete metamorphosis of the gypsy moth, those being egg, larva, pupa and adult stages, along with what month each takes place.

Russ noted the adult moths do not feed and that only the males fly. A healthy egg mass is the size of a quarter. The gypsy moth spread with the wind and are one to two inches in length, fuzzy and hairy with a yellow head. Their natural enemy is a virus.

There are other insects that defoliate too, such as the forest tent caterpillar, which is a problem in New England. Russ said, "It never hurts a maple tree not to be tapped or only tap half as much." A little Pine Sol and water sprayed on egg

masses will help cut down outbreaks.

Another defoliator discussed was the Pear thrip and their life history. Pear thrips are all females, and sole purpose is regeneration. They defoliate the trees, lower sap, and hurt seed production and sugar content in sap by damaging the crowns. Plots and testing are being conducted; as of now, there is no

good control.

Sugar bush management, sap production, and stand improvements was the final subject. Russ showed slides how larger crowns produce more sweet sap volume and how proper thinning of trees and sample testing are important for high profit potential, increased sap yield, and sweeter trees. Managing and selecting trees in stand opens the stand for trees to obtain

deeper crowns and benefit their growth.

John Deets, producer from Titusville, then gave a Farm Show report, noting the prices of syrup, with gallons selling for \$35. Northwest Association took second place with their exhibit. Deets Sugar House was awarded the premier exhibitor and best of show.

Joyce Pierce, secretary of the Downtown Business Association

of Meadville, then spoke on ideas for the first Maple Festival in Meadville April 11. Joyce went over a list of merchants who would work with maple producers and the various places to have maple demonstrations.

Election of officers was conducted. New directors elected were Burton Kimball, Tom Kornman, Randy Northrop and Janet Woods, alternate.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Kenneth Porch received the Vegetable Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Grower of the Year Award from Rutgers Cooperative Extension at the annual Atlantic City meeting of the Vegetable Growers Association of New Jersey.

The award was presented by Dr. Donald J. Prostack, extension specialist in pest management, in appreciation and recognition of the vegetable grower who best exemplifies the adoption, practice, and support of the vegetable IPM program.

On his Pedricktown, Salem County, farm, Porch has followed sweet corn IPM program recommendations for 19 years. IPM techniques and practices help

growers maintain the quality of their produce while minimizing the economic and environmental impact of unnecessary pesticide use.

His cooperation in the early years was instrumental in the development and implementation of the IPM program strategies as they are used today.


The 225-acre Porch farm grows a varied abundance of fresh market vegetables, including sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash, and sweet potatoes. Porch serves on the Rutgers University board of managers and as director for the First Home Savings Bank. He is a former mayor of Oldmans Township.

## Porch Is Grower Of Year



Kenneth Porch, left, of Pedricktown, N.J., receives the Rutgers Cooperative Extension IPM Grower of the Year Award from Dr. Donald J. Prostack, extension specialist in pest management. Ken received this award in appreciation and recognition for his adoption, practice, and support of the Rutgers Vegetable IPM Program.

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