Maple syrup continues to pour at Lusscroft Farm

NJD-SAF past Chair Frank Hennion reports from Lusscroft Farm in Sussex County that the sugarbush has been expanded and 90 additional taps are planned in time for the Sugarin’ Season.

He reports “the tapping season will begin around President’s Week in February and it should last 4 to 5 weeks’ and they plan an open house for the public on March 17 and 18. In addition, four local forest landowners will also bring their maple sap to the Lusscroft Sugar Shack for processing. Currently the shack operates with electricity produced by a portable generator.

The next step is to work with the landlord, High Point State Park, to bring electricity to the site so the volunteers can install and operate a Reverse Osmosis system which will speed the process by removing 70% of the water before the sap goes into the evaporator. This should increase the production capacity, make the process more energy efficient and require less firewood to produce the syrup.

Frank also reports that the Forest Stewardship plan has been completed for Lusscroft and it has been forwarded to the State Forestry Services for review. Once approved, this will make it possible to establish and develop a Demonstration Tree Farm which will be a valuable teaching tool for the public to better understand the benefits of Forest Management.

Sample of recent interviews of Chair Bob Williams


Hordes of the dreaded southern pine beetle are killing New Jersey’s forests by Edward Colimore, Philadelphia Inquirer Staff Writer, April 12, 2011. Article re: Bob Williams SPB views.

Deptford man’s film aims to clear forests of misconceptions by Kevin Riordan, Philadelphia Inquirer Columnist, May 29, 2011. Article re: Bob Williams and the Working Forest video.

Seeking common ground on New Jersey forests by Edward Colimore, Philadelphia Inquirer Staff Writer, December 27, 2011. Article quotes Bob Williams about the “Forestry Bill” SB1959 sponsored by State Senator Bob Smith.