



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 4, 2020**

**Contact:**

Cory Ayotte, Communications Director  
802-786-9437  
cory@vermontmaple.org

Allison Hope, Executive Director  
802-777-2667  
allison@vermontmaple.org

**Vermont Maple Recognizes Outstanding Members**  
**Awards Presented at Vermont's Annual Maple Meeting**

WESTFORD, VT, August 4, 2020 –

The Board of Directors of the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association (VMSMA) selects members each year for its Annual Maple Awards: Outstanding Sugar Maker, Vermont Maple Person of the Year, and the Sumner Williams Lifetime Achievement Award. The 2020 Awards were presented by Sam Cutting IV at the Association's Annual Meeting held on Zoom on July 22, 2020.

*Outstanding Sugar Maker Award: Dubie Family Maple*

The VMSMA Board selects a Vermont sugar maker, individual, or family who sets a good example for other sugar makers to follow in cleanliness, food safety and production practices. In addition, nominees for this award help the maple industry by participating in county and statewide fairs to promote and educate future sugar makers and the general public on the benefits of pure Vermont maple syrup. This year, the Award was presented to Dubie Family Maple (Mark, Marianne and Nate), who have built an impressive sugaring operation in Fairfield, Vermont with hard work and pride since the year 2000. Their operation has grown over the years and the next generation has become intricately involved. Their certified organic maple syrup has even been served at the White House!

*Vermont Maple Person of the Year: Arnie Piper*

As the current Vice Chair of the VMSMA Board, Arnie has not only stepped up this year, but for many years, devoting countless hours of his time. He has been involved in sharing knowledge, assisting with VMSMA's annual maple schools, supporting VMSMA's sugarhouse certification program, and helping with the transition in VMSMA's Executive Director position among other things. Arnie sugars in Hyde Park as Umbrella Hill Maple.

*Sumner Williams Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. Abby van den Berg*

This award is presented in memory of Sumner Williams, the Assistant Director of the UVM Proctor Maple Research Center. In honor of him, the VMSMA Board recognizes outstanding service and dedication to the Vermont maple industry. This year's recipient is Dr. Abby van den



Berg, a research associate professor with UVM's Proctor Maple Research Center. She has dedicated her career to exploring the many facets of maple; she's unsurpassed in scientific integrity and the quality of her work; and her interests have spanned every area, from the ecophysiology of the maple tree to quantifying the unquantifiable. She is completely approachable to anyone in every maple conversation. She always lends significant credibility and knowledge, whether it is with traditional maple practices or moving the industry forward with state-of-the-art techniques. While the Board generally presents this award to someone who might be nearing the end of their career, the Board wanted to recognize Dr. van den Berg's important accomplishments to date and note that they look forward to working with her for many years to come!

###

The Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association (VMSMA), founded in 1893, is one of the oldest agricultural organizations in the United States and represents over 1,000 members. The VMSMA helps to promote and protect the branding of pure Vermont maple products and to serve as the official voice for Vermont sugar makers. Our members take great pride in maintaining a prosperous maple industry and a working landscape that future generations will enjoy. Vermont sugar makers produce over 2 million gallons of maple syrup annually (about one half of the production in the United States). More information at [www.VermontMaple.org](http://www.VermontMaple.org).