



# ROTH SUGARBUSH NEWS



PHOTO BY LISA FLANARY

## MEET THE SUBDEALERS!

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 3



## TIM & AMBER WOODROW:

Each month, we'll spotlight one of our subdealers in Wisconsin and Minnesota, sharing their story and contact details so you can connect with them. This month, we're featuring Timber's Sugar Shack, owned by Tim and Amber, who have been trusted sub-dealers for many years. Don't miss their open house on December 6th and 7th!

## A FUNNY MOMENT FROM A CUSTOMER:

"I'LL LEAVE YOU WITH FAMOUS LAST WORDS... HOLD ON SISTER, KEEP YOUR BOOTS ON, IT'S NOT OVER YET!"

## MAPLE MOMENT: FUNNY QUOTES

SHARE YOUR FUNNY MOMENTS WITH US!

WANT TO SHARE YOUR SUGARBUSH? SEND US PICTURES? OR ASK A QUESTION? EMAIL [SAMARA@ROTHSUGARBUSH.COM](mailto:SAMARA@ROTHSUGARBUSH.COM) & WE'LL SHARE ON THE NEWSLETTER!

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE SUGARBUSH?

## DECEMBER

This month, we're wrapping up the last of our tubing work in the woods and stocking our warehouse to meet all your maple supply needs. If you need membranes cleaned, we're still washing them—so don't wait to send yours in!

Looking for the perfect gift? Our gift boxes come in a variety of options! Give us a call or explore them under the Maple Products tab on our website.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## CHECK-IN WITH PETE

Hi everyone out in the syrup world! Hunting season just finished here in Wisconsin. I didn't get any bucks, but I think my deer is still growing. It grew last year and I figure by the time I get it it'll be a 400-pound deer... or die of old age, I'm not sure which! The weather is changing and getting colder here. There's some snow on the ground, but not as much as the UP in the north. There's ice forming on the lakes and some you can start ice fishing on!

The season is kicking off again soon! Be sure to check out the handy checklist on pages 4-5, covering everything you need to review, prepare, and fix before getting started. Now is the time to check your sugarhouses and equipment for repairs or items you need before you start tapping. Next month we'll give more information on our upcoming open house on February 5-8! We'll have some new speakers this year that you won't want to miss! You can also find last year's seminars on our YouTube! Catalogs will be out after the 1st of the year like always to avoid the Christmas mailing rush(email us to be put on the mailing list)! I hope everyone had fun hunting and I'll check back in next month. Merry Christmas!

*Pete*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR WOODS?

### *Our First Woods are Complete:*

We removed vacuum boosters and retral fitted it with a two-line wet and dry system connected to all the lateral mainlines (A refresher from last month)!

### *Our Second Woods are Complete:*

*The woods are now blanketed in snow, covering the areas where we mulched the underbrush. We're eager to see how much regrowth will occur over the next year. In some sections, we mulched both the underbrush and leftover logging debris, while in others, we left the logging brush untouched. This will help us compare which approach promotes better regrowth. On a brighter note, our tubing system is all set and ready to go.*

### *The Third Woods We're Finishing Soon :*

We have about 40 acres to do of tubing and will finish it up by the end of the month!

# MEET THE SUBDEALERS!

## TIMBER'S SUGAR SHACK: AITKIN, MN

TIM & AMBER WOODROW



## ABOUT US!

Tim is a fifth-generation syrup maker, continuing his family's over four-generation tradition. He still taps the same trees his ancestors did! Amber, grew up on a dairy farm near McGregor, MN. Amber and Tim have been married since 2006 and have 3 kids.

“ Our annual open house is this weekend on the 6th & 7th. We have held a yearly open house since we opened Timbers Sugar Shack in 2017. We got into selling equipment and supplies mostly out of a desire to provide a place for people in Minnesota to get a feel for maple equipment and have a place they can easily drive to get supplies.

We had been driving to Anderson's before they closed and then it would have been all the way to Roth's! We decided that if we had to drive so far there were probably others in the area that could benefit from a local supplier.

## OPEN HOUSE DECEMBER 6TH & 7TH!

“ 218-429-5805  
TIMBERSUGARSHACK@GMAIL.COM

## WHAT THINGS SHOULD I DO OR CHECK?

### *Woods and tubing systems checklist:*

- Check mainlines to make sure they are tight and sag free
- Remove any limbs or branches before snow
- Check 5/16" or 3/16" lines for any damage and make the repairs now
- Last minute tubing sanitization
  - Calcium hypochlorite can be used
  - Make sure the sanitizer is food grade
  - Concentration of the product should be 200 ppm

### *Vacuum pumps & releasers checklist:*

- Change oil on vacuum pumps prior to the weather getting cold (moisture will freeze in the oil)
- Check diaphragms on diaphragm pumps
- Clean the air inlet screen below the check valve on rotary vane vacuum pumps
- Clean and service mechanical releasers (the higher the vacuum level the more moisture in the system)
- Drain check valves on electric releasers
- Clean suction screens on electric releasers
- Check floats and switches on moisture traps

### *Wood evaporator checklist:*

- Stacks
- Firebrick
- Arch rail gaskets
- Grates
- Insulation
- Float box gaskets

### *Oil evaporator checklist:*

- Burner nozzles
- Fuel filters
- Tune up (New nozzles & combustion check)

### *Reverse osmosis checklist:*

- Membranes stored where they will not freeze
- Do your membranes need to be cleaned?
- Do you have your yearly consumables(filters, soap, etc.)?
- Calibration packets and new batteries for ph meter



## ***Taps checklist:***

- Replace tubing taps (early deployment is ok on tubing taps)
- New taps will yield 17% more sap than a used tap
- If you are using cast aluminum or stainless taps sanitize before the season
- Sanitizer: Calcium hypochlorite or Sodium hypochlorite

## ***Bag holders & buckets checklist:***

- Buckets should be sanitized before use
- New sap bags should be used every year
- Do you have enough bags for animal and storm damage?

## ***Measuring devices checklist:***

- Do you have calibration solution for your refractometer?
- Distilled water can be used for sap refractometers
- Do you have calibration packets for your PH Meter?
- Batteries
- Check your hydrometer to make sure it is free of cracks and can be easily read
- Do you have a spare?

## ***Filters & bulk storage checklist:***

- Make sure filter bags are clean and odor-free
- Do you have pre-filters in stock?
- Press papers and DE power
- Drums for bulk storage
- Sample bottles and covers

## ***Best practices:***

- *Assemble your evaporator and other maple equipment in early winter to make sure you find all the parts*
- Keep a notebook in the sugarhouse to log items that need to be repaired before the next season