MORE SAP!!
From
Precision Tapping

Optimizing your sap flow and syrup making begins at the tree, and your first annual interaction with your trees is when you go out to tap. Contrary to popular belief, anyone who can pull the trigger on power drill is not qualified to tap your trees. Poor tapping will reduce your profits. Poor tapping can cause long term damage to your tees, and once the hole has been drilled poorly tapped trees can't be fixed during the season.

So, why not tap correctly? This workshop will provide you with the background science, so you understand why good tapping is so important. It will also provide you with the skills you need to tap correctly, and hopefully the motivation needed to make sure your bush is tapped out just right. Your trees will thank you, and so will your pocketbook.

Workshops will be held at collaborating producer's operations and include a 9:00 am tour of their sugarhouse and woods.

Workshop Agenda (10:00 - noon)

I. Tapping from the tree's perspective
  Why "robbing the cradle" is not a good idea
  "Ouch" said the tree, "that hurts" – the reaction of a tree to injury, and why some trees live to be 60 years old and others 600.

II. Examining the patient before surgery - Why you should spend more time looking at the tree than tapping it.
  The tapping zone, and how to extend it without a ladder.
  What to look out for in choosing your spot to tap
      Old tapholes
      Dead wood areas
      Rough disfigured bark areas

III. How to drill the perfect taphole
  The tapping bit

Always know when to STOP.
Why pulling out is more important than pushing in
Clean tapholes
Being precise and precision tappers

VI. tap tap tap, don't Wallop, Bang, Smash
     The importance of being gentle but firm
          Sap loss due to over tapping
          Sap loss due to under tapping

V. "Different strokes for different folks" or "who can make the better mousetrap" an examination of spouts, spiles, and taps.

VI. Practice makes perfect – on somebody else's trees

VII. Review and Closing – a demonstration of the five mistakes that lead to imperfect tapping.