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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 'Many Meanings of Maple' presentation in Wardsboro

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3 TEXT BODY:

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4 Wardsboro Curtain Call and Wardsboro Public Library  
5 present "Many Meanings of Maple," Saturday, March 21, at 1  
6 p.m. at the Wardsboro Public Library.

7 Maple is far more than a seasonal treat in Vermont. It is a  
8 cornerstone of the state's economy, ecology, and cultural  
9 heritage. "From sugarbushes tucked into rolling hills to the  
10 unmistakable ritual of spring sugaring, maple helps define what it

11 means to live, work, and belong here,” wrote organizers in a  
12 news release.

13 In this talk, Champlain College professor Michael Lange,  
14 who holds a doctorate of philosophy from University of  
15 Wisconsin-Madison, invites the audience to look beyond the  
16 mechanics of sugaring and instead explore the deeper meanings  
17 maple holds for Vermonters.

18 Drawing on more than five years of ethnographic  
19 research with sugar makers across the state, Lange approaches  
20 sugaring not as a technical process, but as “a lived cultural  
21 practice.”

22 Rather than focusing on how to tap a tree, his work asks  
23 more human questions: Why has maple become so central to  
24 Vermont’s identity? How do traditions adapt while still feeling  
25 rooted in the past? And how does maple help shape a shared  
26 sense of place and values among Vermonters today?

27 Lange is a professor of anthropology and folklore and the  
28 author of several academic works on cultural identity. His recent  
29 research includes essays such as “Foodie Influence on the  
30 Culinary Meanings of Maple Syrup” and “Sweet Bedfellows:  
31 Continuity, Change, and Terroir in Maple Syrup,” which examine  
32 how tradition, commerce, and contemporary food culture  
33 intersect in Vermont’s maple world.

34 His latest book, published in 2017, *Meanings of Maple*,  
35 expands on this research and “offers a rich, accessible portrait of  
36 sugaring” as both tradition and transformation, wrote organizers.  
37 The book is available through the University of Arkansas Press,  
38 Phoenix Books, and other outlets, and was recently named a  
39 Choice “Outstanding Academic Title.”

40 Together, Lange reminds Vermonters that “maple is not  
41 just something that is made; it’s something that helps make  
42 Vermonters who they are.”

43 Space is limited; to reserve a spot, visit [bit.ly/857-maple](https://bit.ly/857-maple).

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

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LINKS:

46

####BEGIN LINKS####

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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