

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

FROSTBURG INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY RECEIVES MAPLE SYRUP DONATION

Written by: **Shelby Calhoun**

A joint effort between the city of Frostburg, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Service and landowner Noah Yoder began around 2015 when Noah approached Randy Kamp (Forest Ranger who is now retired) about the idea of tapping some maple trees on the city's property. Randy asked the city staff at the time about the idea and they agreed it was a good plan. Randy designated a riparian forest buffer area along Piney Creek approximately 2 acres in size. He chose this area as the maple trees were likely to never be cut since they helped protect water quality. Within this area approximately 200 taps were put in place.

The city drew up a small contract with Noah specifying that Noah would pay the city \$1 to be able to tap the trees. It also stated that he would compensate them 50¢ for every tap on their property; however, they wished to have this compensation in the form of the finished product of maple syrup. This enabled them to be able to donate the Maple Syrup to the Frostburg Interfaith Food Pantry. Initially, the city paid for the cost of the bottles, however over time that cost comes out of the compensation from Noah.

Noah has done other forest management work for the city in the past. Prior to the maple syrup project, he completed various Timber Stand Improvement projects where undesirable pole-sized trees were removed and used for firewood and other purposes; this allowed the larger trees to utilize the extra growing space. These areas were marked by the Forest



FROSTBURG OFFICIALS AND FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

Back (left to right): Paul Gerhard, volunteer; Craig Kenny, volunteer; Chuck Durney, volunteer; John Horn, volunteer; Adam Miller, DNR Maryland Forest Service, Forester; and Hayden Lindsey, Director of Public Works.

Front (left to right): Donny Carter, Commissioner of Finance; Nina Forsythe, Commissioner of Water Parks & Rec; Bob Flanigan, Frostburg Mayor; Vickie Peterson, Food Pantry Director; Ella Hoffman, volunteer; Clair Hoffman, volunteer; Donna Gates, volunteer; Merry Medearis, volunteer; and Elizabeth Stahlman, City Administrator.

Service and then a contract was drawn up and trees were cut and hauled away.

Early in 2022, Noah asked Adam Miller (DNR Forester) about expanding the tapping area, so the city was approached again and they approved the proposal. The area has expanded to approximately 9 acres and around 900 taps in total. The area remains a riparian buffer along Piney Creek.

The sap is piped to Noah's property where it is cooked into syrup. He then takes his syrup to Brenneman's Maple in Salisbury, PA, and they bottle it for him with his label of Piney Creek Maple.

This year 100 16oz. containers of syrup were donated to the Frostburg Interfaith Food Pantry.

