



What's HOT from MOTT

March 2009

What's Hot from MOTT is a monthly media publication highlighting events happening throughout the state in the coming month. It is produced by the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (MOTT), the state agency dedicated to promoting Massachusetts as a leisure destination. A complete list of events, attractions, outdoor activities, and accommodations is available on our web site: massvacation.com. In addition, we are always available for media interviews regarding Massachusetts tourism. For more information contact Lisa Simmons, lisa.simmons@state.ma.us or (617) 973-8508.

Signs of Spring

▪ **Massachusetts State Parks offer Maple Sugaring Events**

Maple sugaring interpretive programs will be held at several DCR parks during Massachusetts Maple Month. Maple Sugar Days, at **Brookwood Farm** in the **Blue Hills Reservation** (Milton, 617-333-0690), features real maple sugaring, educational demonstrations, and more on March 7 & 8 from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. **Breakheart Reservation** (Saugus, 781-438-1388) offers free programs for schools and nonprofit groups Monday-Friday, March 16, 18, 19 & 23. Tours include tree identification, tapping, history of maple sugaring, wood harvesting, sap boiling, and sampling of real maple syrup on pancakes and popcorn. (Preregistration is required; call for details.)

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park (River Bend Farm, 287 Oak Street, Uxbridge, 508-278-5274) offers maple sugaring program the first three weekends in March (7 & 8, 14 & 15, 21 & 22) starting at 11 a.m. (Group tours are available by registration). Watch syrup being made, sample maple products, see trees being tapped, participate in gathering sap, and visit the park's sugar house.

Throughout Massachusetts

March 8-16

www.mass.gov/dcr

▪ **Maple Day**

Try a maple syrup taste test! Can you tell the difference? Join us for a sweet day as we explore maple history, culture and tasting. Help tap a tree for sap. Also enjoy woodland walks for tapping and fun crafts and activities for children. \$5.mem./\$20 max per family; \$8.non-mem./\$32. max per family. Fee includes admission to the EcoZone. This is a drop-in event, no pre-registration required.

South Shore Natural Science Center, Norwell

March 14

781-659-2559

www.ssns.org

- **Blooms**

BLOOMS!" will be held in the marble lobbies of International Place, 125 High Street and The InterContinental Boston, in the buildings abutting the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, "BLOOMS!" will introduce the public to this new Boston neighborhood. BLOOMS! will offer more intimate displays, enhanced by the magnificent architecture of the lobbies of three financial district properties.

Boston

March 13-15

617-474-6556

www.masshort.org

- **Worcester Spring Home Show**

Walk through the largest consumer trade show in Central Mass. Features over 300 booths with a variety of exhibitors.

DCU Center, Worcester

March 6-8

508-931-2000

www.worcesterhomeshow.com

- **Paradise East Arts Festival**

Stroll through the unique Sculpture Garden and enjoy the extensive collection of contemporary crafts and fine art. This festival features more than 175 juried exhibitors.

Royal Plaza Trade Center, Marlborough

March 20-22

800-511-9725

www.paradisecityarts.com

- **4th Annual Cape Ann Home & Garden Show**

Don't miss North Shore's largest home and garden show, visit over 100 Exhibitors as you discover creative solutions to get your garden and home ready for the arrival of spring. See live demonstrations and hear topical speakers throughout the weekend.

Gloucester High School, Gloucester

March 28-29

978-283-1601

www.capeannchamber.com/homegarden

Luck O the Irish

- **St. Patrick's Day Celebrations**

Enjoy America's most Irish state for the month of March. Festivities include Irish culinary events at local hotels, concerts, parades, art exhibits, lectures, theater, children's activities and much more.

Statewide

March 1-31

617-696-9880

www.irishmassachusetts.com

- **St. Patrick's Day Parades**

Abington	March 22	781-878-1570
Holyoke	March 22	413 533-1700
Lawrence	March 8	978 794-5858
Scituate	March 15	781 545-6671
South Boston	March 15	617 268-7955
Worcester	March 8	508 755-1955
Yarmouth	March 7	508-362-7239

And Don't Forget

- **Boston Massacre Reenactment**

Watch as The Massachusetts Council of Minute Men and Militia reenact one of the key events leading up to the American Revolution.

Boston

March 7

617-720-1713

www.bostonhistory.org

- **Winter Restaurant Week**

Take some of the hottest restaurants in Boston and Cambridge, have them serve up delicious fixed price meals and you have the most powerful restaurant promotion in the city. Three course prix-fix lunch menu for \$20.09 and many of these restaurants also offer a special dinner menu for \$33.09.

Throughout Boston and Cambridge

March 15-20 & 22-27

www.bostonusa.com

- **Plimoth Plantation: Opening Day**

Plimoth Plantation opens for its 61st season.

Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth

March 21

508-746-1622

www.plimoth.org

- **Rail-A-Rama XLI**

Covering 21,000 sq. ft. with children's U-RUN toy trains, dealers, displays, operating layouts, train videos and free parking. Select your favorite equipment from the mighty locomotive to the little red caboose.

Holiday Inn, Mansfield

March 1

617-361-4445

www.mysticvalleyrs.org

- **Winter Film Festival**

As always, the MVFF dishes up cutting edge cinema in a cocoon-like space complete with cozy couches, live music, and incredible meals. There is something for everyone during this weekend of films that the entire family can enjoy.

Chilmark Community Center, Martha's Vineyard

March 13-15

508-693-0396

<http://www.mviff.org>