

UNIQUE JURIED ARTS & CRAFTS

Saturdays: 9 am - 5 pm • Sundays: 9 am - 4 pm

MONTEREY: Highland High & Elementary School Gyms*, Courthouse Lawn, The Barn at Monterey Inn, & The Highland Center*

MCDOWELL: Stonewall Ruritan Building

*A \$5 admission charge at entry includes a collectible keychain & provides access to the Arts & Crafts Shows in the gyms & The Highland Center daytime entertainment & crafts. Ages 9 & under FREE!

PANCAKE & BUCKWHEAT MEALS

BLUE GRASS: Blue Grass Ruritan Building - Blue Grass Valley Road (Rt. 640), 7 miles north of Monterey • 7:30 am - 3 pm CASH/CHECK ONLY

BOLAR: Bolar Ruritan Club - 15 miles south of Monterey at the intersection of Rt. 220 & Rt. 607 • 7 am - 2 pm CASH/CHECK ONLY

MCDOWELL: Stonewall Ruritan Building - Intersection of Rt. 250 & Bullpasture River Road (Rt. 678) • 7 am - 4 pm CASH/CHECK ONLY

MONTEREY: Highland County Public Schools - Myers-Moon Road off Rt. 250 • 8 am - 4 pm CASH/CHECK ONLY

MORE SPECIAL FOOD OFFERINGS

MCDOWELL: Stonewall Ruritan Building: Baked goods, maple products, kettle corn, pork rinds • **McDowell Firehouse:** Trout, BBQ chicken, country ham dinners, ham sandwiches, crafts

MONTEREY: Mill Gap Ruritans, big red trailer at corner of Rt. 220 & Courthouse Ln.: Famous maple doughnuts

Main & Side Streets: Monterey Lions Club pork rinds, vendors

North Water Street: Food trucks • **School:** Middle School Bazaar, FFA milkshakes, Cheer & Dance Team • **The Highland Center**

FOOD OPTIONS ALSO AVAILABLE AT MOST SUGAR CAMPS

RESTAURANTS IN MONTEREY

Claire's Cakes & Café: Maple lattes, hot chocolate, maple baked goods, breakfast, & lunch with vegan, gluten-free, & dairy-free options

Highlander: Pizza, subs, & salads with locally-sourced ingredients, gluten-free options, souvenirs, maple products, Visitor Center

High's Restaurant: BBQ, fried shrimp, gluten-free pasta, BBB pork chops (BBQ, Bacon, & Blackberries), fried trout, country fried steak, soup, salad, desserts

The Curly Maple: Restored general store, local provisions, grab-n-go breakfast sandwiches, gourmet coffee, Maple bacon BLT, brisket nachos, gluten-free options

VIRGINIA IS FOR MAPLE SYRUP LOVERS

Sponsored by the Highland County Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 223, Monterey, VA 24465

(540) 468-2550 • director@highlandcounty.org • virginia.org

Events & hours subject to change • Photos by Crisp Pics & Virginia Tourism Corporation

Join us again next year! March 13-14 & 20-21, 2027

[FACEBOOK.COM/HIGHLANDCOUNTY](https://www.facebook.com/highlandcounty)

[INSTAGRAM.COM/HIGHLAND_COUNTY_VA](https://www.instagram.com/highland_county_va)

ENTERTAINMENT

MONTEREY: The Highland Center off Spruce Street
\$5 or keychain • Sponsored by The Highland County Arts Council

Saturday, March 14th at 2 pm

Southern Rail Express (Bluegrass)

Sunday, March 15th at 2 pm

Little Switzerland Cloggers

Saturday, March 21st at 2 pm

Square Dance with Ellen and Eugene Ratcliffe

Music by Mudhole Control • Sponsored by Mid Atlantic Arts, CALT

Sunday, March 22nd at 2 pm

Mill Creek Cronies (Appalachian Folk)

LOCAL POINTS OF INTEREST

BLUE GRASS

Blue Grass Mercantile - Brunswick stew, BBQ, local products

MCDOWELL

Hayfields State Park - **New!** Hike or fish at Virginia's 44th State Park
Hazy Hollow Farm - Cattle viewing, Angus beef, barn quilts, apparel

Highland County Museum - Exhibits on the Battle of McDowell, Uniquely Highland, Maple Museum, Early Industry, & Highland Before Highland 1740 - 1840

Outpost - **New!** 24-hour fuel • Deli, groceries

MEADOWDALE / MILL GAP

Highland Barn Quilts - Studio tours with Margie Boesch • Closed Sundays

The Church at the Old Oak - Arts & crafts, baked goods

Townsend Draft Goods - Natural goods rooted in nature & ancient wisdom

MONTEREY

Art on Main at The 3rd Space - Gallery, artists' studio & workshop space

B&L's Mountain Safe Transportation - Free shuttle to

Monterey attractions starting from the Monterey Stockyard

Big Fish Cider, Co. - Award-winning local cider & tasting room

Charles Pinckney Jones Museum - Restored historic house museum

Fast Break - 24-hour fuel • Fresh deli, pizza, snacks, ATM

Gutshall's Exxon - 24-hour fuel • Tire repair, propane

Highland County Eagles #4556 - **New!** Food & drink specials

Highland County Girl Scouts - Indoor, seated dining with chili, hot dogs,

hot/cold drinks, & baked goods at Monterey Presbyterian Church

Highland Inn - Learn about our historic revitalization

Highland Roots Market - Syrup, cinnamon rolls, local goods, natural grocery

Rockingham Cooperative - Hardware & farm store • Closed Sundays

The Gallery of Highland - Selling local art & books all year

The Highland Center - Entertainment, local art, food

Twice is Nice - Gently-used clothing for the whole family

Visitor Center - Browse local info inside The Highlander

RT. 220 NORTH

Ginseng Mountain Store - "New time" country store, crafts, gifts

Rexrode's Country Store - Fuel • Deli, pizza, breads, maple products, novelties

Virginia Trout Company - Feed the fish! Baked trout sandwiches, frozen fillets

RT. 220 SOUTH

Valley AeroSpace Team - March 14th model rocket launch (3/21 rain date)



66TH ANNUAL

HIGHLAND COUNTY MAPLE FESTIVAL

March 14-15 & 21-22, 2026

Free Maple Sugar Camp Tours

Unique Artisans & Crafters

Delicious Food • Entertainment

HIGHLANDCOUNTY.ORG



VIRGINIA
IS FOR
MAPLE SYRUP
LOVERS



Virginia's
Sweetest
Event of the
Year!

Since 1959, Highland County, Virginia has welcomed visitors to tour real maple sugar camps for a cultural and culinary adventure!

Designated a **Local Legacy** by the Library of Congress in 1999 and the **official maple festival of Virginia** by the Governor in 2014, the tradition continues every second and third weekend in March.

Join us for free sugar camp tours, pancake and buckwheat cake meals, famous maple doughnuts, unique vendors, entertainment, and memories in our rural mountain community.

Layered clothing and boots are recommended, as weather can vary in March. Stay up to date at highlandcounty.org. **Have fun at our award-winning COUNTY-WIDE festival!**

1 PUFFENBARGER'S SUGAR ORCHARD

17 Maple Syrup Lane, Blue Grass

On Rt. 637 (Maple Sugar Road) southwest of Blue Grass, the Puffenbarger family taps over 1,800 trees (some over 200-years-old), and uses miles of plastic tubing, vacuum pumps, a reverse osmosis machine, and an oil-fired evaporator to make pure Highland County maple syrup. They also make and sell candies, fudge, and other food for visitors.

Owners: Doug & Terri Puffenbarger. Sat & Sun: 8 am - 5 pm 🚗

2 LAUREL FORK SAPSUCKERS

10677 Mountain Turnpike, Hightown

Located 10 miles west of Monterey on Rt. 250 off Clay Hise Lane, Laurel Fork Sapsuckers is a family-run sugar camp, Virginia's 2019 Tree Farm of the Year recipient, and 2025 Logger Merit Award recipient for Virginia. Enjoy a 3/4 mile loop trail with interpretive signs explaining maple syrup research projects and forest management practices used to increase syrup yields. View various wood-fired methods of evaporating sugar water into maple syrup, including traditional and modern. Food is available with vegetarian options, as well as maple syrup, infused syrups, maple vinegar, ramp salt, and apple butter. Free samples are available. Owners: Ronnie & Sandy Moyers.

Sat: 9 am - 5 pm, Sun: 9 am - 4 pm **CASH/CHECK ONLY**

3 MILL GAP FARMS

2760 Mill Gap Road, Monterey

Located within sight of Duff's Sugar House, Mill Gap Farms is the first and only producer that is certified Organic by the USDA in Virginia. Anything but old-fashioned, they utilize the latest technology from Vermont and Quebec, including electronic monitoring of their maple trees, to produce delicious maple syrup. At the family farm, you can visit Merino, Finn, and Suffolk sheep along with chickens, alpacas, cattle, ducks, and turkeys. Enjoy their fresh organic coffee, roasted on their farm, along with maple cotton candy and a beautiful view of the southern Blue Grass Valley.

Owners: Kevin & Emily Conner. Sat: 9 am - 5 pm, Sun: 9 am - 3 pm 🚗

4 DUFF'S SUGAR HOUSE

3118 Mill Gap Road, Monterey

Located at Fair Lawn Farm southwest of Monterey (4 miles south on Rt. 220, then 3 miles west on Rt. 84), Duff's Sugar House is a small, family-run old-time sugar house where the trees are still "opened" by hand and the sugar water collected in buckets. Cooking is done in a wood-fired open pan and finished in an iron kettle. Hands-on participation is encouraged. Enjoy hickory and dandelion syrups, as well as onsite milled cornmeal and grits from **Crooked Spur Farm**.

Owners: Tim & Terry Duff. Sat: 9 am - 5 pm, Sun: 10 am - 4 pm 🚗

🚗 = Wheelchair accessible 🚌 = Tour buses welcome

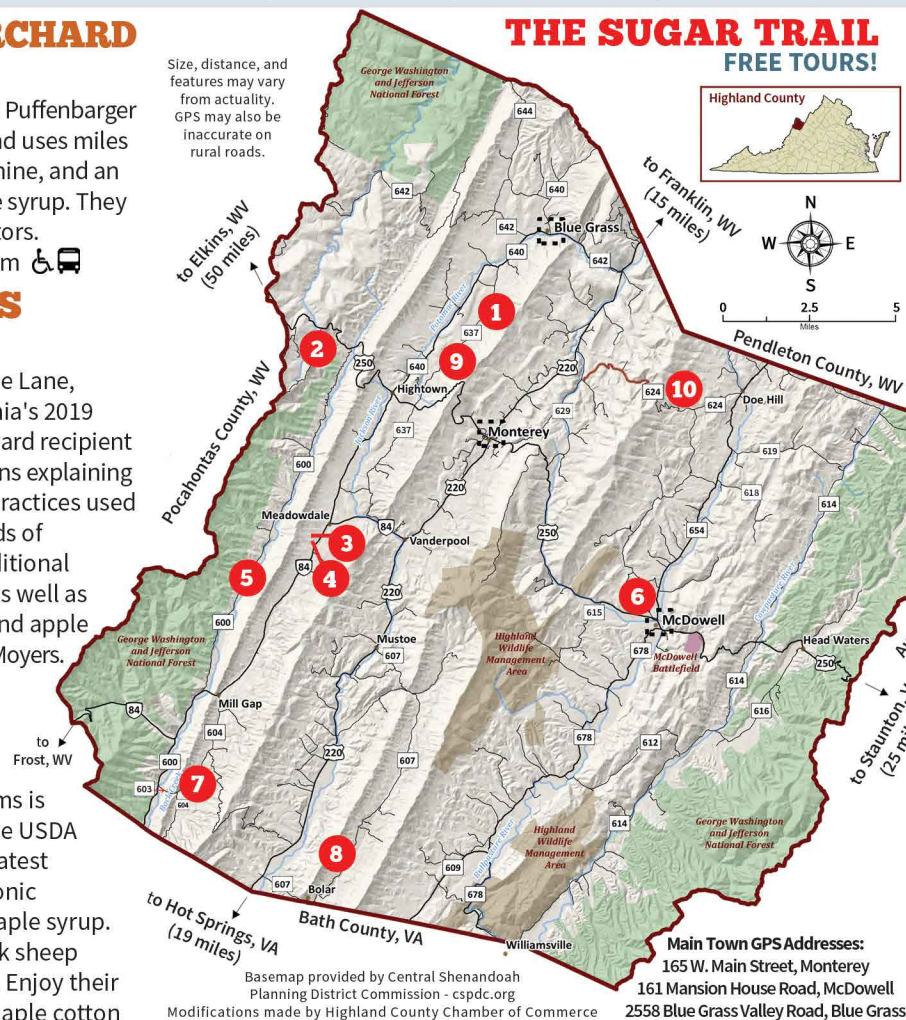
ADDITIONAL SUGAR STOPS

Bruce's Syrup & Candies - Main Street, Monterey
and Stonewall Ruritan Building, McDowell

Scan our 2026 keychains!



Size, distance, and features may vary from actuality. GPS may also be inaccurate on rural roads.



Basemap provided by Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission - cspdc.org
Modifications made by Highland County Chamber of Commerce

Main Town GPS Addresses:
165 W. Main Street, Monterey
161 Mansion House Road, McDowell
2558 Blue Grass Valley Road, Blue Grass

5 BACK CREEK FARMS

7781 Upper Back Creek Road, Monterey

Back Creek Farms is a 5th generation maple syrup business which has maintained traditions but added a modern twist! Using both traditional and newer methods, they not only produce pure maple syrup, but they also create infusions and barrel-aged varieties. Tastings are always available. Enjoy watching sugar water flow through tubing and into buckets around the sugar house, browse their gift shop, and walk along beautiful Back Creek. Food and beverage vendors are available onsite with ample parking. Owners: Valerie & Pat Lowry.

Sat: 9 am - 5 pm, Sun: 10 am - 4 pm 🚗



Celebrate America's 250th Birthday with us!

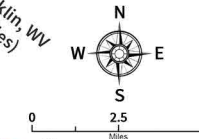


THE SUGAR TRAIL

FREE TOURS!



to Franklin, WV
(15 miles)



SUGAR TREE COUNTRY STORE

185 Mansion House Road, McDowell

Located near the center of McDowell, this operation employs a modern reverse osmosis concentrator and oil-fired evaporator. View antique maple-producing tools on display. This country store features homemade food, local gifts, maple products, apple butter, birch syrup, pottery, jams, cookbooks, old-fashioned bar soap, handmade rugs, and much more. Owners: Glenn & Fern Heatwole. Sat: 9 am - 5 pm, Closed Sundays 🚗

NEW! PLEASANT BROOK FARMS

2822 Valley Center Road, Monterey

Nestled in the southwest corner of Highland County in Mill Gap (Rt. 604), this generational family has a history of making maple syrup that dates back earlier than 1908. Embracing this more than century-old tradition, Pleasant Brook Farms strives to produce a sweet, pure maple syrup that will bring people from all walks back for years to come. The Brock family use wood-fired pans in their sugar house that has visible remnants of the original structure. This year-round working farm welcomes you! 🚗 **CASH/CHECK ONLY**

Owners: Christian & Burgundy Brock. Sat: 8 am - 5 pm, Sun: 12 - 5 pm

SOUTHERNMOST MAPLE

7738 Big Valley Road, Bolar

Located 15 miles south of Monterey on Rt. 607 (off Rt. 220 on Big Valley Road,) sugar water is gathered with hundreds of buckets and miles of plastic tubing that funnel the sugar water into a piggyback evaporator. A rustic country store carries maple products, flour, honey, jellies, and baked goods. Food includes maple pit-cooked BBQ, maple doughnuts, and pork skins. Enjoy a complete breakfast with buckwheat cakes and pancakes until 11 am, lunch, and dinner with inside seating, vendors and crafts, and Saturday bluegrass music at noon. Food options are available Fridays. There are indoor restrooms. 🚗

Owners: Mike Puffenbarger & family. Sat: 8 am - 6 pm, Closed Sundays

REXRODE'S SUGAR ORCHARD

1564 Maple Sugar Road, Monterey

Located north of Hightown on Rt. 637 (Maple Sugar Road), six generations of syrup makers invite visitors to interact with the syrup making process. Get up close to large 200-year-old maple trees and view different wood-fired evaporation methods, including the old-fashioned open pan system, as well as a modern-style evaporator. Food and a variety of maple products are available, including maple cotton candy. Owner: Derek Rexrode. Sat: 9 am - 5 pm, Sun: 9 am - 4 pm 🚗 **CASH/CHECK ONLY**

EAGLE'S SUGAR CAMP

5503 Jack Mountain Road, Doe Hill

Follow signs to Eagle's Sugar Camp, located north of McDowell (off Rt. 654 on Jack Mountain Road) in Doe Hill. Syrup producers for more than 222 years, the Eagles still use open pan, wood-fired evaporators, as well as the latest advanced computerized oil-fired evaporators. Observe sugar water collected in buckets. Browse local arts & crafts, local honey, maple products, buckwheat, cornmeal, and baked goods. Enjoy home-cooked food, as well as maple-glazed doughnuts. Owners: Jay & Betty Eagle. Sat & Sun: 8 am - 5 pm 🚗 **CASH/CHECK ONLY**