Arboretum bears sap

the focus of the sap tapping has shifted from production to education, and the Arboretum has gotten involved in the annual ritual.

"I love everything about it," Bach said about the yearly festival. "I get excited when other people are excited about it."

Biology students visit the taps for lab, taking advantage of the educational opportunity.

"It's something they've never done before," Bach said. "This is a unique experience they couldn't get anywhere else."

Another new experience for this year's festival-goers is the performance of an original song by Bach, unveiled on the Tapping Day and performed both days of the festival.

"My supervisor at the Arboretum, Sarah Gainey, asked me to create a model to explain the physiological mechanism for sap flow," Bach said via e-mail. "She wanted something we could use in our Environmental Education classes to help teach young students."

Finding the right words wasn't too hard.

"As a songwriter, I have found that I am not the author of my best songs — they tend to write themselves," Bach said. "Naturally, words relating to maple sap just started to flow, pun intended."

MJ will perform the song again with Danny Vitali, Joey Buhta and Molly Roske on the final day of the festival, April 5.

Syruping lyrics

Better than your Aunt Jemima
Though it takes a lot of time-a
Won't you join me in my mission?
Come enjoy the old tradition.

— MJ Bach