

The Cutting Edge



NEWS FOR THE DEDICATED PROFESSIONAL TIMBER HARVESTERS, SAWMILLS AND FORESTERS WHO WORK
CONNECTICUT'S WOODLANDS

Inside This Issue

3. Scholarship Winner
4. News You Can Use: EAB Update
6. A Conversation With Ted De Mers
8. CPR & First Aid Workshop
9. CT-DEEP Staff Changes
10. Bits and Chokers: 2014 Maple Syrup Report, New Products from Our Forests
12. Coming Events

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It's enough to make us dizzy.

On the one hand, markets for wood products have been easing up and even expanding. In this issue you'll discover new products and emerging opportunities for Connecticut Grown wood. Read about the furniture being crafted by Ted DeMers, of Everlasting Woods, from Connecticut Grown wood, about the growing nanocellulose market and what this trademark on the right might mean for us.

But the latest news (as of press time) about the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) indicates its continued spread and growing threat to the health of our forest resource. EAB is now in Middlesex County and has been documented in New Jersey. Read Joan Nichols' report on how imminent quarantines could affect us.



Also in this issue, we cover staffing changes at CT-DEEP, Brennan Sheahan reports on his successful CPR & First Aid Course, and we introduce our 2014-2015 TIMPRO CT scholarship winner Griffin Bovich of Clinton, CT, now a freshman at the University of Maine.



The Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association, Inc. (TIMPRO CT) is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)6 non-profit corporation. Our mission is to enhance the image and understanding of the forest products industry throughout the state through public outreach programs, education, and a commitment to professionalism among its members.

Ads in this issue are our way of thanking the following March 29 workshop leaders:

Charlie Leigus, E. R. Hinman & Sons, Inc
Kurt Lindeland, Connecticut Forest Products
Brian Paganini, Quantum Biopower
Marty Paganini, Supreme Forest Products
Marilyn Rosetti, The Open Hearth
Thomas Worthley, UCONN.

Thank you also to Mark Cooper, The Scotts Company

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Membership is open to sawmills, loggers, foresters, landowners, supporting businesses and anyone else interested in supporting the forest products industry in Connecticut. Benefits include educational programs, a voice in the Connecticut Legislature, a listing on the TIMPRO CT website, current information on issues affecting the forest products industry, discounts from area businesses, a free subscription to ***The Cutting Edge*** and more.

Dues are \$150/year. \$25.00 for student memberships.

Applications are available by calling TIMPRO CT at 860-948-0432 or visiting the website at www.timproct.org.

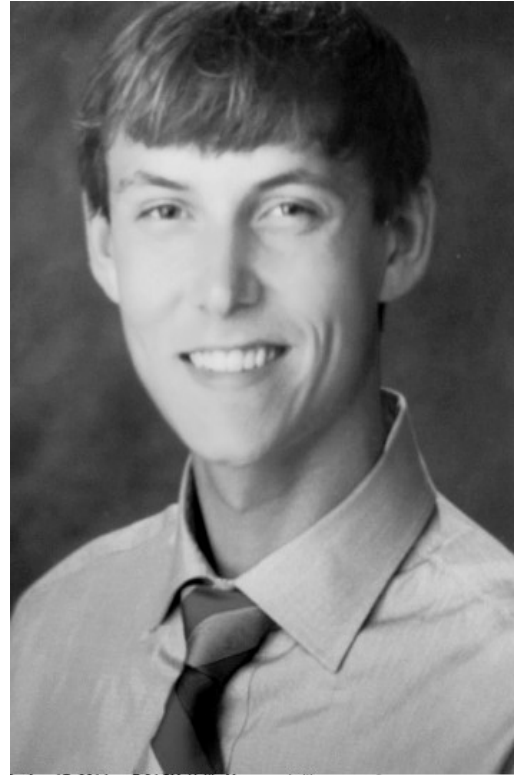
MEET TIMPRO CT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER GRIFFIN BOVICH

Our newest scholarship winner Griffin Bovich, of Clinton, CT, has the best of both worlds. He is equally at home sailing on the Sound or hiking the Vermont woods. An accomplished sailor, hiker, and skier, he describes himself as "an outdoors person." "I feel comfortable in the forest," he wrote in his application essay, "and it's harder to get me out of there than in."

Even the three summers he has spent working at Cedar Island Marina have prepared him for a variety of forestry tasks, he explained: "I am part of the grounds maintenance crew. I have participated in countless hours of landscaping, chemical spill clean up, hurricane preparation, and irrigation management. My experience around the water working with chemicals and pesticides has given me a better appreciation of the Sound and other environments."

A graduate of The Morgan School, Griffin is now at the University of Maine where he will study forestry and forest resources. In fact, he arrived a week before most freshmen so he could participate in a special outdoors orientation program for forestry. He will also participate in Maine Bound. Like Outward Bound, Maine Bound will enable him to take part in experiences all over the country.

"I'm comfortable in the forest," Griffin says. "I never feel scared or helpless but rather confident and at peace. I have spent time in the woods on vast snowmobile trails clearing them to make way for the rest of the group. I have walked miles through the woods on unmarked paths after my snowmobile broke down just to find my way back home... I feel that I am the right fit for a career in forestry... I'm not the type of person to be happy sitting behind a desk for my entire life."



News You Can Use

Potential Impact of EAB Control Measures on the Connecticut Firewood Industry By Joan Nichols, TIMPRO CT Legislative Committee

The accompanying map of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation is already out of date. Now documented in New London County, EAB continues to extend its range.

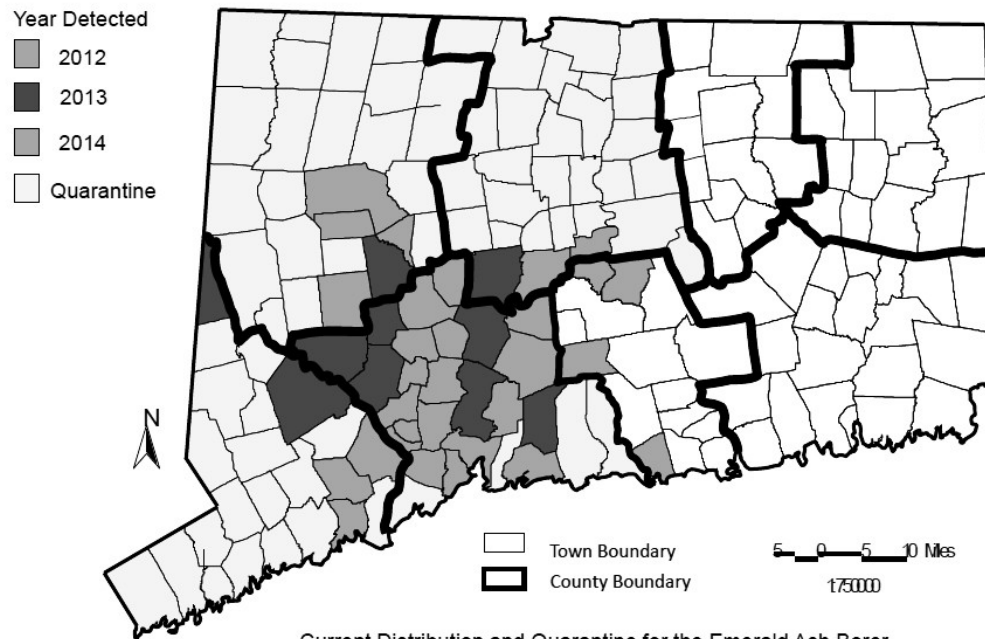
Given the spread, Massachusetts is expected to implement a quarantine in October. Rhode Island had not made a decision as of press time.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) will maintain the current quarantine for Fairfield, Litchfield, Hartford, and New Haven counties. The hearing to include Middlesex County has been postponed until the end of the EAB trapping season sometime in November.

TIMPRO CT members should start planning now for these widening quarantines on the movement of firewood not just within Connecticut but also across state lines.

The CAES is very cognizant of not wanting to create an economic hardship for the industry and is to be commended for its efforts. However in light of the rapid rate of EAB infestation, it is strongly advised that you plan accordingly. Since any quarantine will cover *all* firewood, not just ash, consider how the potential future expansion of the quarantine to the whole state may impact your firewood procurement, processing, and customer base across state lines, especially if Rhode Island and Massachusetts do not enact quarantines simultaneously with Connecticut. Be aware that once the expansion of the quarantine area goes to public hearing, the implementation of the quarantine happens almost immediately.

Continue to check your emails for an official press release and notice of public hearing from the CAES on the final decision. The advice is to get very familiar with the current firewood regulations, think about your current operation for procurement, processing, and delivery including customer base and then plan accordingly. If you are not sure how the regulations may impact you now or in the future, call the CAES (General: 203-974-8500; Plant Quarantine and Inspection 203-974-8474). All regulations, forms, maps, and up-to-date information on EAB are available on the CAES website: (www.ct.gov/caes). Click on the Emerald Ash Borer on the left side of the Home Page. We are grateful to the CAES for considering the economic impact to our forest products industry and for maintaining open lines of communication.



Current Distribution and Quarantine for the Emerald Ash Borer



Options for using EAB-killed wood

In our last issue we reported on measures taken in the Midwest by the USDA APHIS program and by individual states to provide high-end uses for EAB-killed ash. In an email, Paul Chaloux, USDA APHIS National Policy Adviser, Emerald Ash Borer Program explained that there have been various initiatives to make use of the ash wood generated from EAB damage and communities' efforts to manage their canopy and perform hazard tree mitigation work.

"At the national level," he wrote, "APHIS has not conducted any programs along those lines. They tend to be local efforts that address local needs and opportunities. Our staff in the field has had a bit of a hand in the efforts at times, but again, at the national level we have not done so simply because utilization of timber resources is the U.S. Forest Service's area of expertise." He has, though, seen some innovative uses of EAB-killed ash beyond making mulch or firewood. A better use might be as fuel for cogeneration plants to produce power. He also cited the example of "one gentleman who worked with his city forester to receive bolts of white ash generated by tree removals from which he turned bats for the local little league team."

Connecticut DEEP Forester Christopher Martin says there are no statewide plans in effect yet but advises TIMPRO CT members to go to the www.ct.gov/caes to see new documents concerning the use of wood from urban and municipal trees.

A Conversation with..... Ted DeMers



Meet artisan and artist Ted DeMers (TDM) of Everlasting Woods. A participant in the Connecticut Grown program, he is one of an elite group of craftsmen making one-of-a-kind pieces of furniture from local wood. He now harvests on his own land but sees opportunities throughout the state for more extensive use of wood. He knows first hand the dilemma as we face the rapid spread of insect infestations and diseases. Hallie Metzger (HM)

HM: What are you seeing in your own woods?

TDM: It's disheartening. Every time we turn around, there's something else attacking the woods. Our forests are changing fast. They're under attack.

HM: How does that affect your work?

TDM: I was fortunate enough to get some elm that was standing dead. I tried without success to interest the mountain laurel sanctuary in thinning out dying wood.

HM: What about using EAB-killed ash?

TDM: I love it. I used to make furniture from trees with clear wood. The trees were tall and straight like telephone poles. Now I look for stuff that's beat up and ready to come down. It has beautiful grain and makes beautiful boards.

HM: What are the prospects for Connecticut craftsmen using local wood?

TDM: If you were standing on just about any street corner and asked if any wood comes from Connecticut, the answer would be 'of course not.' I once had a newspaper reporter interview me. When he asked where my wood comes from, I said 'my woods.' He was astounded. I used to go to fairs as far as Maryland. People asked me, 'Are there any trees left in Connecticut?' But

there's a lot of wood not being used. I know the power companies had to do some extremely aggressive line clearing after that storm we had a few years ago. But some logs are just lying



on the side of the road. They were just cut and dropped.

HM: What prevents more craftsmen such as you from developing a base here?

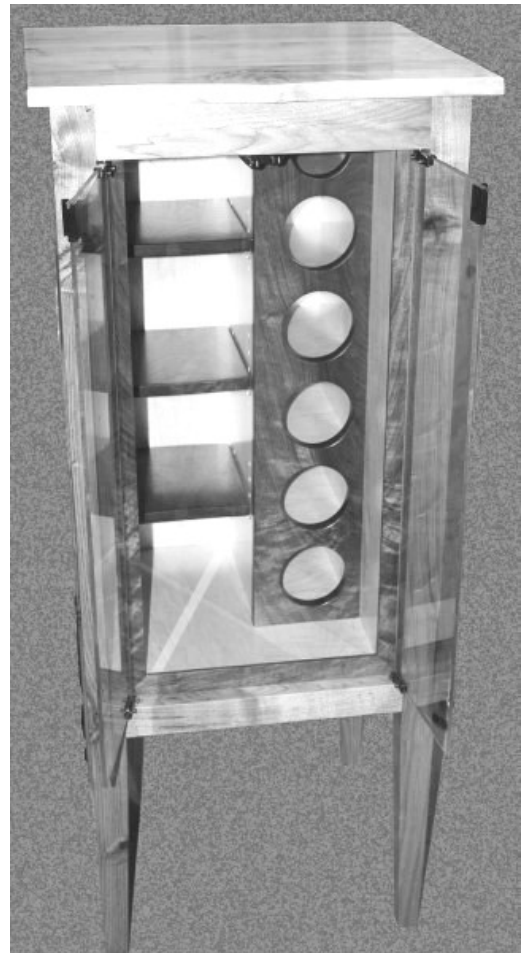
TDM: We live in such a disposable economy. There are a lot of incredible furniture makers but the medium size companies – the ones with 7-10 employees - have gone. But small places are hanging in. I used to do shows all over the place paying hundreds of dollars [for a space]. Now I'm in a local farmer's market in Coventry, It's generated a huge amount of interest. I have a big metal sign advertising 'Connecticut Grown.'

HM: How has that worked?

TDM: A guy came to buy a head of lettuce and ended up spending \$1500 on a piece of my furniture.

HM: Is there a coordinated effort to promote Connecticut woodcrafts?

TDM: One of my pet peeves is that we have a fine furniture show that used to be in Providence. New Hampshire and Vermont also have fine furniture shows and subsidize participation. Connecticut is more fragmented. Every other state is ahead of us.



A regional developer of Organics to Energy facilities, Quantum Biopower's latest project is constructing and operating Connecticut's first Organic's recycling facility on 65 acres of land currently used by Supreme Forest Products. This facility will utilize the principles of Anaerobic Digestion to create renewable power from the natural decomposition of food material.

A subsidiary of Supreme Forest Products.
For information, contact Brian Paganini,
www.quantumbiopwer.com

FIRST AID EVENT REVIEWS BASICS AND REVEALS SOME SURPRISES

BY Brennan Sheahan



The First Aid CPR AED class was held on one of the first hot, muggy summer days of the season.

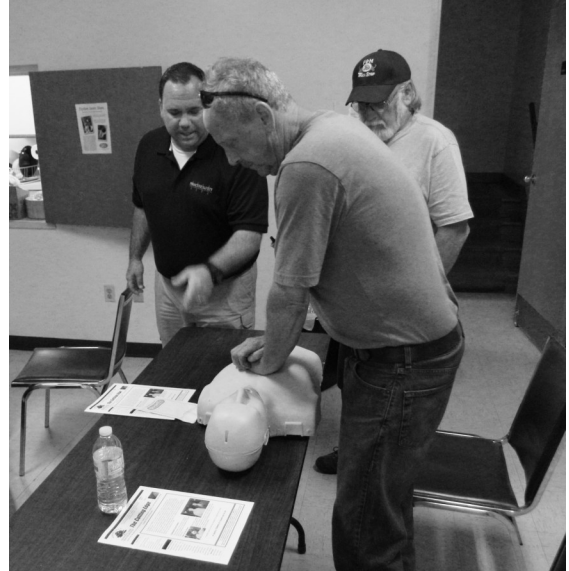
Twenty one forest practitioners showed up to the air-conditioned room of the CT Forest and Parks building located in Middlefield, CT. The instructor, Jason Race (L) of Proactive Safety, put on a valuable lecture teaching us the benefits of knowing some crucial life saving techniques for our most dangerous work place, the woods.

Along with the lecture, Mr. Race provided dummies for us to practice our CPR method for administering this most important lifesaving method. We all got our chance to try to keep the correct number

of beats per minute on the dummy for 2.5 minutes. This was not an easy task keeping the lights green for that long of a period of time. What a workout this technique can be!

Mr. Race recommended that we all build our own first aid kit to have on the job site. He said that the store-bought kits don't adequately provide the basic materials. He recommends the following must-haves in your kit: 1 dozen non-latex gloves, 2-5 big bandages, tape, scissors, tourniquet, gallon-size zip lock bags, ace bandages, a puke barrier, chewable baby aspirin, quick clot bandage, packets of sugar, Benadryl, glasses, hand cleaner, pop ice bags, and a bottle of water.

An interesting fact pointed out is that CPR alone doesn't have a very high success rate of keeping the patient alive. Having an AED device close by increases the chance of survival dramatically. Mr. Race demonstrated AED devices and just how simple it is to administer the operation. We also found out just how important it is to shave the victim before applying the AED pads. It turns out that human hair is very flammable.



This course might seem repetitive but your certification by the American Heart Association is only good for 2 years. OSHA's logging regulations require that all loggers be certified. The day was long but we all learned some great lessons in how to treat the unfortunate accidents that can happen while working in the woods. Thank you to Mr. Race for spending his time and sharing his vast knowledge regarding work place safety.

Note: TIMPRO CT provided attendees a delicious lunch catered by Nardellis Grinder Shop.

CT-DEEP FORESTRY DIVISION RETIREMENTS

The past 12 months saw the retirements of both Ralph Scarpino and James Parda. Moreover, over half the present staff is currently eligible to retire. Aside from one pending retirement date, other eligible retirees have not announced any specific plans yet.

"That's definitely a matter of concern," says State Forester Christopher Martin. But his good news: "We've been given the highest priority to hire." He reports that interviews ended in June for Scarpino's position of Forest Protection Supervisor. Parda's position, Forestry Supervisor, has already been posted. "This will be a very popular position," predicts Martin, "This person will have six full-time workers and some seasonal help to manage 170,000 acres of DEEP's State Forests."

One factor in the hiring go-ahead is recognition that, although state properties amount to only 10% of Connecticut forestland, they produce significant revenue. With adequate staff, the state can sustainably harvest more trees and continue to reap financial as well as ecological rewards.

Parda was one of only fifteen foresters for the entire DEEP staff. Ultimately, to improve the state's economy, to spread word of the Connecticut Grown program, and to involve more private forest landowners, the Forestry Division would benefit from having a larger staff, not just maintaining stability.

Martin is glad that the hiring is well underway. "We're losing fantastic institutional memories [with the current retirements]. But we can also see great opportunities bringing in new blood with new technical skills."



Board members Henry Gundlach and Stephanie Gillotti pose with Henry's logging truck - a 1986 GMC General with 90,000 miles - before the opening parade at the Woodmen's Field Days, August 15-17, in Booneville, New York.

Foley Carrier Service Provides DOT Compliance News

TIMPRO CT Board member Jerry Belows recommends Foley Carrier Service for information about DOT regulations. TIMPRO members can use Foley for their Commercial Drivers License, updates about random drug testing, and required inspections. Belows finds that "sometimes the information is interesting and helpful as it pertains to trucking forest products in Connecticut.

For more information: 1-800-253-5506 or www.foleyservices.com.



Bits and Chokers

MORE PRODUCTS FROM YOUR FOREST

Is there a plant near you that manufactures concrete? Paint? Ink? If so, advised Michael Bilodeau, Director of the Nanocellulose Research Program, a unit of University of Maine's Process Development Center, "You've got a great way of getting rid of diseased wood."



That's because any wood – any plant material, for that matter – can be broken down to its elemental building blocks and transformed into a valuable new material: cellulose nanofiber (CNF). Bilodeau's program started as a pilot project in 2011 with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Products Laboratory in Wisconsin. It encourages high-end use of poor quality wood and even mill residue by producing sufficient quantities of the product for research and development efforts.

Bilodeau's facility mechanically breaks down plant materials and forms them into a gel. "We've shipped this to more than 100 companies and 60 research labs in 28 different countries in the last 12 months. That's about 5,000 pounds," he said. The gel goes into a wide variety of end uses: plastics, filtration membranes, a strengthener in concrete, even a thickener in yogurt. Because nanocellulose has a smooth texture but no calories, it is also being used in diet foods.

For TIMPRO CT members, the challenge will be finding users near by. "The gel is only 3% plant material but 97% water so it is best to use it close to where it's processed," Bilodeau noted. But there is good news, he added: "I ship at least one sample a day to researchers testing ways to use the product." And federal money is available for research. The goal is to scale up the processes quickly. As uses increase, so can Connecticut Grown's opportunities and markets for wood.



Or is there an energy drink in your forest? Valentina Cugnasca, Co-Founder and CEO of Vertical Water, thinks there may be. Vertical Water is a drink made of pure maple water – not syrup. Says Cugnasca, "Vertical Water originated out of Feronia Forests Sustainable Full Forestry strategy. It's a project we have been working on since 2004. We believe in working with as many woodland owners as possible both through Feronia and Vertical Water as we recognize that there are many ways to sustainably manage forestland and [we] are happy to share our learnings." Vertical Water is exclusively sourced and bottled in the USA.

Vertical Water's goal is simple: "by sharing the water from their maple trees, forest owners now have a financially viable reason for keeping their trees vertical longer." Described as "clear, crisp, and delicious," Vertical Water is 100% pure maple water from American maple trees - "Nothing added." One serving has more manganese, a trace mineral important for bone health, than one cup of Kale.

For skeptics, consider that coconut water, once relegated to the lowest grocery shelf, is now a \$150 million-a-year market. Maple water is relatively cheaper, about \$3 for an 16.9 oz bottle while coconut water is \$3 for eleven ounces. However, consumers may be concerned that Vertical Water contains 3-4 grams of naturally occurring sugar per 240 mL. Also, while it contains many phytonutrients, it is still too new for definitive research into its benefits. A benefit for producers, though, is that it does not have to be bottled "hot" as that would caramelize the water. Now there's *another* product from your woods.



Maple Syrup Yields Down in 2014

Maple Syrup: Taps, Yield, and Production By State and United States, 2012-2014

State	Number of taps			Yield per tap			Production		
	2012 ¹	2013	2014	2012 ¹	2013	2014	2012 ¹	2013	2014
	(1,000 taps)			(gallons)			(1,000 gallons)		
CT	70	78	83	0.157	0.256	0.193	11	20	16

Maple Syrup: Price and Value By State and United States, 2011-2013²

State	Average Price per gallon			Value of production		
	2011 ¹	2012 ¹	2013	2011 ¹	2012 ¹	2013
		(dollars)			(1,000 dollars)	
CT	73.00	63.40	71.00	1,241	697	1,420

The National Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture reports that national maple syrup production totaled 3.17 million gallons, down 10% from 2013. In 2014, cold temperatures decreased the season length. The number of taps is estimated at 11.4 million, down slightly from the 2013 total. Yield per tap is estimated to be 0.279 gallons, down 10% from the previous season's yield. All states with the exception of Pennsylvania showed a decrease in production from the previous year. Mark Harran, President of the Connecticut Maple Syrup Producers Association, reported to Association members: "The 2014 season ended up being a fairly good one, but it sure didn't look that way 2/3 of the way through the season. By March 8 we, at Brookside Farm, were preparing ourselves for a bad year. We had been tapped in since the first week of February and had only boiled twice. Then, around March 10, the sap started to first run, then by March 20, it started 'gushing' out of the trees. We were boiling, almost non-stop, right up through April 5 and ended the season with an amount of syrup almost equal to 2013, admittedly helped by the fact we had a 10% increase in taps in 2014 versus 2013. My ad hoc survey says that our experience at Brookside Farm was generally the case across Connecticut and the USDA survey supports that for the entire maple belt. The last two weeks saved an otherwise bad season."



PO Box 508
Oneco, CT 06373

Calendar of Events 2014

CT Professional Timber Producers Association

Look for mailings or check the
website for further details and
any changes to the Calendar of
Events.

Ideas for classes you would
like offered?

Contact TIMPRO CT:

PO Box 508

Oneco, CT 06373

860-948-0432

info@timproct.org

Articles, ideas, pictures
you'd like to see?

hallie.metzger@rcn.com

Check calendar on Timpro website for any changes.

Sept. 20: Celebrating Agriculture and Log A Load For Kids, Woodstock, CT

Sept. 26 Heartsaver ® First Aid with CPR & AED, 8-4, Sessions Woods, Burlington, CT, 2.5 CEUs for CT Certified Forest Practitioners

Further information, contact TIMPRO CT 860 948-0432 or info@timproct.org

Get Involved

The Board of Directors is seeking members who are interested in helping out with various activities throughout the year such as CEU programming, fairs, Ag Days at the State Capitol in March, Plant Science Day in August in Hamden, programs at the Agriscience Centers and more. The Board, made up of business owners, just like yourselves, is keenly aware of the demands on your time. Any amount of time, no matter how minimal, is greatly needed.

Contact TIMPRO CT for more information:

860-948-0432 or e-mail: info@timproct.org.