

The Cutting Edge



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

Inside This Issue

Kimi and Chris Update	2
The Make A Wish Log	3
News You Can Use	4
Back to the Future?	6
Biomass By Sea..	8
Biomass In The Future	9
Bits and Chokers	10
Calendar	12

Board of Directors

Joan Nichols - Pres.
 Henry Gundlach - VP
 Steve Tallman - Treas.
 Gerald Bellows - Sec.
 Robert Carrington
 Michael Gillotti
 Stephanie Gillotti
 Peter Hart
 Michael Hinman
 Sam Hull
 Marshall McKenna
 Douglas Moore
 Perry Sawyer
 Brennan Sheahan
 David Trowbridge

Alternates

Galen Boucher
 Bill Carver
 Joe Voboril

IS THE GLASS HALF FULL OR HALF EMPTY?

Half Full: the market for firewood and woody biomass is improving. Whether in fire-places, wood stoves, pellet stoves, or pellet furnaces, more people are becoming energy "locavores" and taking advantage of the abundance of woody biomass in the state. Nationally, the use of wood chips and wood pellets is picking up. Internationally, an export market to Europe is strengthening. **Half Empty:** This would be great if we could harvest and get wood to the markets more easily.

Half Full: Winter is a good time to harvest timber. **Half Empty:** Winter is a tough time to harvest timber what with icy roads or snow packs making outdoor work and transport more hazardous and maintenance of equipment more difficult.

Half Full: The American love affair with oil may be fading. **Half Empty:** Americans are now in love with natural gas although it must be piped from source to point of use and won't be available everywhere. Also, recent cold spells drove up prices for natural gas and may have given many customers reason to pause about converting from oil or other fuels.

Half Full: The extreme cold spell may actually knock back the woolly adelgid. **Half Empty:** It won't have much effect on the Emerald Ash Borer

How *you* see the glass depends on where in Connecticut you work. For such a tiny state, we have a lot of distinctively different terrain: hills in the northwest, a coastal plain, a major river valley, and more

In this issue you'll learn more about such challenges, including the unusual solution Andy Clark of Limb-It-Less, LLC is developing to transport wood products and about Connecticut initiatives to upgrade port facilities and rail lines.

Illustration by Deborah Roach

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.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS UPDATE

Kimi Sekorski and Christian Allyn report on their busy and successful first semesters.

Kimi says, " My first semester at Paul Smith's College has been exciting to say the least. My major is Wildlife and Fisheries Science concentrating on wildlife science with a minor in GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and I absolutely love it. I had two three-hour labs that were outside the entire time which was a nice change of pace compared to sitting in a classroom for that long! Along with schoolwork I am also a part of the Paul Smith's Woodsmen team where I compete at colleges around the North East in wood chopping, sawing, and birling. My favorite event to compete in is the underhand chop where the competitor stands on top of the wood and chops it in half as fast as they can. Over all I can not wait to get back to New York and start my spring semester where I know there is much more in store for me!"



Christian had a "great first semester at the Torrington Campus of the University of Connecticut" studying Chemistry, English, and Spanish, all general requirements of the University of Connecticut and of his Major of Horticulture. "With a small course-load I had the opportunity to oversee the planning and maintenance of public arboretums in the towns of North Canaan and Canaan as I did while in high school. I was also nominated and appointed to the Housatonic River Commission, a public advisory board overseeing development along the Housatonic River in Litchfield County. At the Torrington Campus of UConn, I was elected Secretary to the Association of Student Government." He has a heavier load this semester and is continuing to learn Spanish since "the language is becoming increasingly important in our industry."



He is also taking courses in communications as well as the only Honors course offered at the Torrington Campus, on the History of Farming in Litchfield County.

We wish our scholarship winners well as they chart their paths to future careers.

Membership in the Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association

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.

HOW A TULIP POPLAR BECAME THE "MAKE A WISH LOG"

A tulip poplar (below right) cut down in November 2011 by Jeremy Bellows in Montville has enjoyed a whole new life as a Make A Wish Log. Jerry Bellows and his son Jeremy were doing contract logging for Hull Forest Products in the Oakdale section of Montville when they came across a large tulip poplar that was marked for removal. The tree yielded 1835 BF and one 22 ft. log from the tree was purchased by TIMPRO CT member Jim Passarello of Jim Passarello, LLC, Scotland. Passarello had chainsaw artist Adam Mulholland, of Sickline Carving in Windham, carve it (below left) for the annual Wishes on Wheels Truck Run. Over 400 trucks participated on September 15, 2013 and more than \$15,000 was raised.



Jeremy Bellows ready to bring down the tulip poplar in 2011

New World forests not only provided white pine for masts for the British Navy, they played a role in the historic defeat of scurvy. Lacking Vitamin C on long voyages, European sailors sickened or died of scurvy until explorers such as Jacques Cartier and Samuel de Champlain learned from Native Americans to make beer from the needles and buds of the spruce tree. Native Americans called *Liriodendron tulipifera*, a hardy member of the Magnolia family, the "canoe tree" and hollowed its long straight trunk for dugouts. They also used its roots to give a lemon-like flavoring to spruce beer. Very high in Vitamin C, spruce beer restored the sailors to health and became a staple of the British Royal Navy.



News You Can Use

Bills passed at the national, state, and local levels will affect forestry in Connecticut.

NATIONAL:

The Agricultural Act of 2014, known also as the Farm Bill of 2014, addresses the potential of wood-based products, the threat of insect infestations and disease, and the interconnections of urban and rural forests. The 959-page bill calls for:

- Researching and developing “science-based tools for the forestry sector, forest and timberland owners and managers, and forestry products engineering, manufacturing and related interests.”
- Demonstrating “the beneficial characteristics of wood as a green building material.”
- Developing “novel engineered lumber products and renewable energy from wood.”
- Creating an annualized inventory of urban trees that also assesses their environmental value and health.
- Reporting on renewable biomass supplies and carbon stocks at local, state, regional, and national level by ownership type.
- Expanding existing outreach programs for family forest owners.
- Protecting family forest owners from burdensome road permit regulations.

The General Service Administration has ruled that wood products from forests certified by the American Tree Farm are eligible for General Service Administration projects.

Tax Tips: Linda Wang, National Timber Tax Specialist, and John Green, Retired Research Forester, offer 2013 tax tips at the <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/taxtips2013>

STATE:

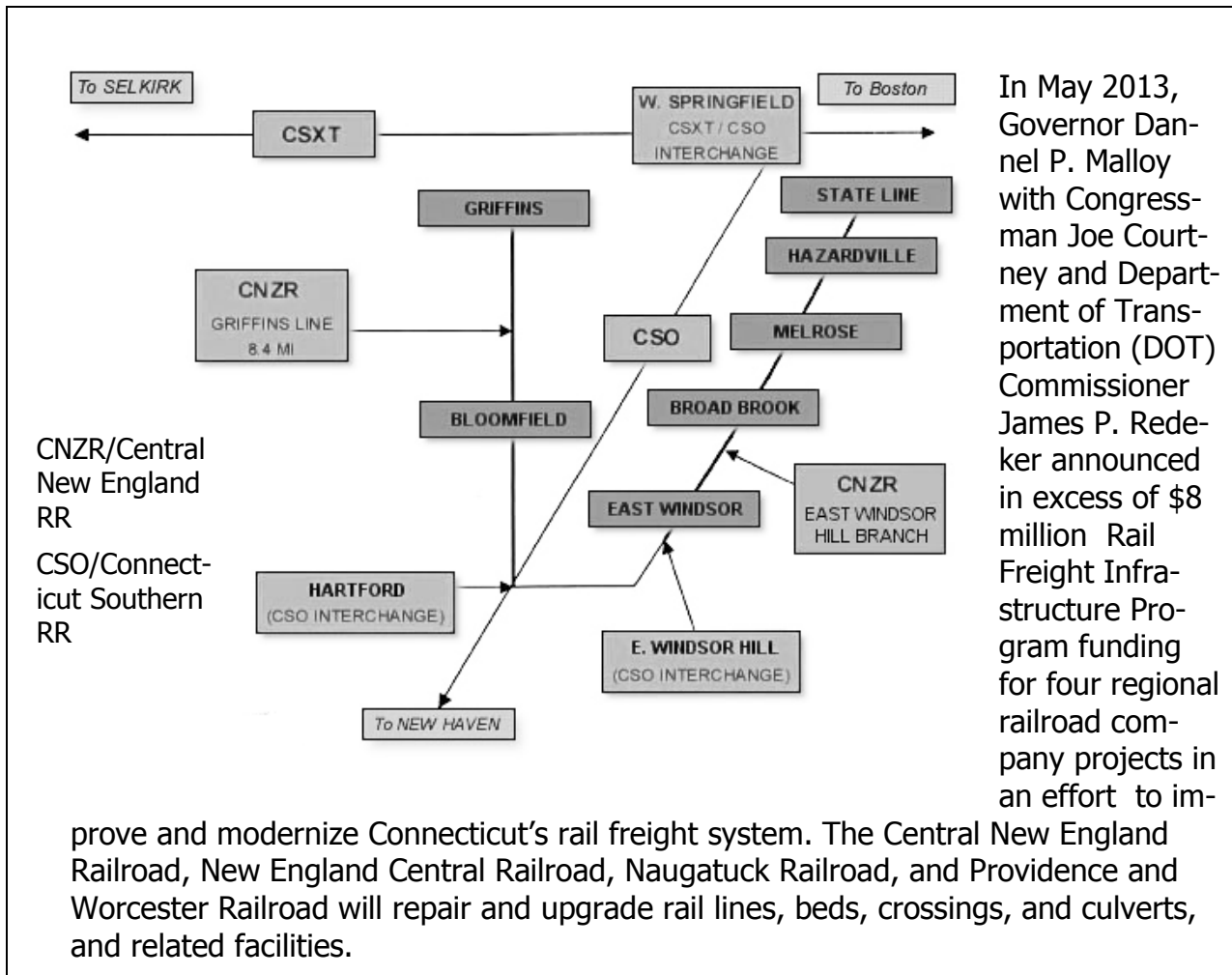
An overall transportation bill approved raising truck weights from 80,000 GVW to 100,000 GVW for agricultural commodities. This bill requires Federal approval to become law

CT-DEEP will accept personal, business, or certified checks as well as money orders for forest practitioner certification. Fees are:

- ◆ New fee: \$235
- ◆ Examination fee: \$65
- ◆ Certification renewal (including exam exempt): \$235

The Department of Revenue Services will grant farm plates to forestry-related vehicles if:

- ◆ The vehicle is used exclusively for agricultural production
- ◆ An Agricultural Sales Tax Exemption Permit (OR-248) is obtained from the DRS
- ◆ Gross farm income in the preceding year was not less than \$2500
- ◆ Farm plated vehicles does transport goods for hire.
- ◆ Initial application is made in person and vehicles 10 years or older or registered out of state are inspected.



Local: Eighteen towns have now banned Outdoor Wood Burning Furnaces (OWF's): Avon, Bethel, Cheshire, Granby, Haddam, Hamden, Hebron, Norfolk, New Fairfield, North Haven, Portland, Ridgefield, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, South Windsor, Tolland, West Hartford, Woodbridge

BACK TO THE FUTURE?

Andrew Clark, of Limb-it-Less Logging, LLC, is a man with a vision – a vision that looks back to the past as well as forward to the future.

“I wanted a better way to move product,” Clark explained in a phone interview. “My logging company was established in 1999. When I started investigating, I went to a friend with a property next to railroad siding. For twenty-five years he had used rail to bring in concrete. I asked him, ‘What can you tell me?’ He gave me contact information and let me test rail transport. One thing led to another and now we are officially functioning with it.”

For Trish LaPlatney, Office Manager at Limb-It-Less Logging, rail solved a major logistic challenge: availability of trucks, especially in the winter when conditions were best for logging. “When we shipped to Canada,” she explained, “we would sometimes have to wait until the Canadian mill could send a truck to us.”

The eastern side of the state is served by a network of railroads that, with various linkages, can bring product from Connecticut to Massachusetts or even farther north to Canada.

In western Connecticut there are fewer options but rail is still possible says Ryan Nemeroff, Director of Marketing for the Housatonic Railroad. “We’ve had spot moves of roundwood in the last 8 years but we’re not doing anything currently.”

He could move wood as far as the new biomass plant in Berlin, NH. Where direct rail connections don’t exist, he pointed out, “There may be a transload terminal. You would have to

A loaded rail car ready for transport.



truck the wood a short distance.” In northwest Connecticut, that would mean getting loads to Canaan where it could be put on rail cars. Along the shoreline, the challenge is fragmentation: the system once owned by Pennsylvania Railroad is now owned and operated by several entities such as Providence & Worcester or New England Central.

For Clark, the decision to move by rail reflected the old rule of real estate – “location, location, location.” He was fortunate to find a base right next to a railroad siding. This location saves on fuel costs and truck maintenance. Suppliers bring logs directly to the yard where they are loaded onto rail cars. There’s less worry about winter ice and snow and other dangerous conditions that could prove costly.



Andy Clark

Rep. Joe Courtney

Delivery by rail is also faster. Clark’s website

notes he can deliver 3-4 trailer loads of logs on one rail car. “With this ability we are able to supply saw mills with more logs in one delivery,”

After visiting Clark’s site, Representative Joe Courtney, Connecticut 2nd District, said, “Limb-It-Less Logging is taking advantage of coming upgrades to eastern Connecticut’s freight rail, which will connect Franklin, CT to upstate New York and Canada. Shipping timber via freight rail increases delivery speeds and does not require the back and forth travel of tractor trailer shipping.” Representative Courtney supports a state initiative to improve railroad transportation.

Whatever happens, there is a lot going for rail in Connecticut. Not least, says Clark, is the people he’s gotten to know in the industry. “It’s a joy to work with these guys,” he said, “They really want to help.”

BIOMASS BY SEA....

In September 2012, the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management issued a study by California-based Moffat & Nichol Engineers of long-term strategies for the state's three deep water ports: Bridgeport, New Haven, and New London. The study identified wood pellets as a "niche cargo" export that has either been served by Connecticut ports in the past or could be served in the future. The study stated,

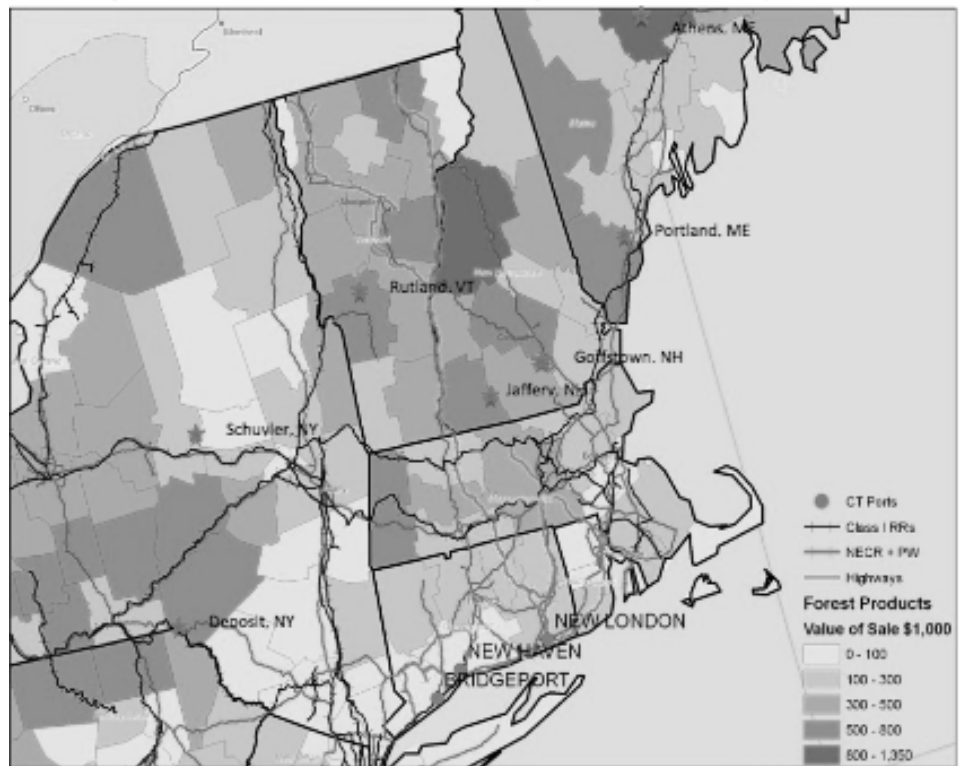
"Global demand for alternative fuel sources is growing, particularly in the developed economies throughout Europe. The export of wood pellets used as biofuel material is a burgeoning industry in the US Northeast, and one which could potentially serve as an alternate source of income throughout Connecticut's deep water ports. Industry estimates suggest that current demand of roughly 15 million tons will increase to a range of 45 – 60 million tons by 2020.

This strong demand forecast underpins the positive outlook for US exports of wood pellets, which have recently been driven to a large extent by growing demand in Europe. US exported 850,000 tons in 2011. The industry has already attracted significant investment throughout Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and Eastern New York including new export terminals in Eastport and Portland Maine, to ship wood pellets to Europe. Most recently, a new pellet mill planned for Baldwin, Maine will produce approximately 300,000 tons per year with 70% meant for export. This volume will be transferred by rail to move approximately 28 miles to the Port of Portland for export..... Much of the production is occurring to the north of Connecticut and, as such, the extent to which Connecticut ports can attract some of this volume south will depend on their ability to leverage the infrastructure, which provides access to the northern region. This infrastructure includes the NECR that serves New London and possibly the Providence and Worcester Railroad."

PDF of full text available on line at ct.gov titled "Connecticut Deep Water Port Strategy"

Illustration from Moffat & Nichol Report

Figure 14: Forest Product Manufacturing and Wood Pellet Operations



BIOMASS IN THE FUTURE: STILL THE CINDERELLA AT THE ENERGY BALL?

Despite the focus on wind turbines and solar energy, the sale of wood-pellets and woody biomass heating facilities has grown. Eric Kingsey of Innovative Natural Resource Solutions, LLC reports that NRG is trying to develop one in Montville and Re-Energy Holdings is working on a biomass conversion project in Sterling. The new plant in Plainfield is already on line. But...

- The Plainfield plant is only allowed to burn up to 20% "green" material.
- ◆ New EPA regulations will raise standards for particulates: 4.5 grams/hour dropping to 1.3 in five years. Rules may cover previously exempt wood-fired boilers.
- ◆ Connecticut communities are banning OWF's, town-by-town. (See p. 5)

Yet the use of wood is increasing. And there are 'Made in America' solutions. Daryl Lamppa, of Wisconsin-based Lamppa Manufacturing, says, "We realized that if you get rid of smoke, you get rid of the creosote." His KUUMA vapor-fired furnaces produced under .5 gram of particulates in independent testing – cleaner than a pellet catalytic stove.

In the Lebanon, New Hampshire *Valley News*, Jess Baldwin, Senior Vice President of Sales and Customer Service, Vermont Castings, says his stoves can emit under 1 gram/hour. He is concerned about new testing procedures and would rather the program phased out stoves that met the 1988 standards. Woodstock Soapstone Manufacturer, also expects to meet the new standards.

Lloyd Irland, of The Irland Group in Maine, likes to quote former Maine Commissioner of Conservation Richard Anderson: "Having a biomass market is like having a garden and being able to sell the weeds."

But Irland has seen the promise of biomass come and go. When prices for natural gas or oil drop, people turn away from wood. "The sad thing," he said, "is that it is so episodic. That makes it hard for people to plan and market either fuels like pellets or stoves." He thinks the best bet is much larger application of municipal and commercial wood-fueled heating installations. The form the wood might take (traditional split wood, pellets, chips, torrefied wood) will vary according to place and time.

As for sustainability, Connecticut is about 60% forested and is currently growing more than is being cut. But ownership is fragmented and urban/suburban development is spreading. The state's Forest Action Plan supports the forest products industry by, among other initiatives, educating Connecticut landowners about management. Better management will improve the health of forest stands and wildlife habitat while keeping wood in the pipeline.

Mid-Atlantic states are currently reaping the benefit of growing European demand for woody biomass. In North Carolina roundwood is being chipped right on site at ports and going directly into container ships for export. As excess lumber is being drawn down there, could Connecticut become a new export hub?

Continued on next page



Bits and Chokers

BIOMASS BY SEA... CONTINUED

Connecticut legislators already see the possibilities and have proposed a statewide port authority, a quasi-public agency, to promote the ports in New Haven, Bridgeport and New London. With the expansion of the Panama Canal and a possible second canal in Nicaragua, markets for Connecticut-grown wood could improve. As the Moffat & Nichol study outlined (p.8) Connecticut's three deep-water ports could play a major export role in wood pellets.

Doug Emmerthal, CT-DEEP Division of Forestry Forest Practices, Stewardship, Utilization Program Manager, sees the potential but notes that dredging and improving rail connections aren't the only considerations. Concern over insect pests means a deep-water port must be able to quarantine and fumigate wood, as Baltimore currently does. "Europeans are pushing for more wood," he said, "and have mandated getting off oil. A large pellet plant in Scotland [Great Britain], in operation for several years, reflects that commitment." As for the new biomass plant in Plainfield, "They strategically put it near a railhead," he observed.

From big plants such as the ones in New Hampshire and Europe to small units in individual homes, it's a trend that makes sense as well as cents in Connecticut.

JACK AND JILL TOURNAMENT AT STORRS

UConn at Storrs hosted the 3rd Annual Jack and Jill Tournament on February 22. Hull Forest Products donated 1500 board feet of debarked white pine logs for teams that engaged in a variety of competitions, including Single Buck Bow Saw, Standing Block Crosscut, Axe Throw, and Log Roll. Special thanks to Brennan Sheahan and Michael Bartlett for the information and picture.

HFP Logging Contractor Richard Jordan and his partner Kelly Kerrigan at the cross-cut.



TIMPRO CT WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

Don Bunce (SFPH), *D.R. Bunce & Co*, Trucker/Firewood Producer, Ashford Ct
 Jeremy Clark (F), *Clark Forestry Services*, Forester, Middletown Ct
 Thomas Graham (SFPH), *Thomas Graham*, Timber Harvester/Firewood Producer, Litchfield Ct
 Orrin E Jones (F), *Ct Land Mgt Co*, Forester, Guilford Ct
 James J Kelly, *Kelly Custom Sawing*, Sawmill, West Haven Ct
 Kurt Lindeland, *Ct Mulch distributors Inc.*, Trucker/Chipmill, Enfield, Ct
 Gary Ocain (SFPH), *Clover Hill Forest*, Timber Harvester, Falls Village Ct
 Patrick Roach, *Goat Star Tree*, Supporting Member, Thompson Ct

Market Opportunities:

Support Your Connecticut

Forest Products Industries

Saturday March 29, 2014

8:00 am - 3:00 pm

3:15 pm Wrap Up *Brennan Sheahan*

2 CEU

CT Certified Forest Practitioners

Free for members of TIMPRO CT

\$40.00/non-members.

\$50.00/ walk-ins,

late registrations

CT Professional Timber Producers

Annual Meeting & Dinner

Following Workshop

3:45 pm - 6:30 pm

8:45 – 8:55 Registration, coffee and donuts

8:45 – 8:55 Welcome, *Brennan Sheahan*

8:55 – 9:25 Local Wood Utilization,

Thomas Worthley UCONN Extension

9:30 – 9:45 Marlowe Forest Products , *Peter Marlowe*

9:45 – 10:00 CT Mulch Distributor, *Kurt Lindeland*

10:00 – 10:15 Jordan Sawmill, *Kevin Jordan*

10:15 – 10:30 Perma Treat, *David Trykowski*

10:30 – 10:45 Open Hearth Association, *Marilyn Rossetti*

10:45 – 11:00 am Break

11:00 – 11:15 Limb-It-Less Logging, *Andrew Clark*

11:15 – 11:30 Hinman Lumber, *Charlie Leigus*

11:30 – 11:45 Supreme Forest Products

12:00 – 12:45 LUNCH *Bring Your Own*

12:45 – 1:15 CT Grown Program,

Christopher Martin CT DEEP

1:15 – 1:30 Hull Forest Products, *Ben Hull*

1:30 – 1:45 Plainfield Renewable Energy, *Stephen Wenzel*

2:00 – 2:15 pm Beaver Brook Saw Shop *Jim Passarello*

2:15 – 2:30 Sigfridson Wood Products, *Ken Sigfridson*

2:30 - 2:45 The Scotts Company *Mark Cooper*

2:45 – 3:00 CITYBENCH, *Zeb Esselstyn*



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

March 19: Ag Days at the Capitol, Hartford, CT

March 29: TIMPRO CT Annual Meeting, E. R. Hinman, & Sons, Burlington, CT

More information and program on p.11

Aug. 6: Plant Science Day, Lockwood Farm, Hamden, CT

Aug. 29 –Sept. 1: Woodstock Fair. Set-up Day, Aug. 28

Sept. 20: Celebrating Agriculture, Woodstock, CT

Check calendar on Timpro website for any changes.

Further information, 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.