

# *The Cutting Edge* →



**NEWS FOR THE DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS WHO WORK CONNECTICUT'S WOODLANDS**

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## *"Who's Working in Your Woods?"*



That's the slogan on our TIMPRO CT t-shirts.

Now, thanks to Mary Tyrrell, we can ask "*Whose Woods Are We Working In?*" Her study (p.10), a collaboration between Yale University School of Forestry & Environmental Studies and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Forestry Division, provides a comprehensive picture

of private woodland owners throughout the state.

We can also answer the question "*How much \$ are we generating for Connecticut?*" The North East State Foresters Institute reviewed economic data and documented revenue and jobs the forest products industry creates (p. 8).

This information helps us develop strategies to improve opportunities for our members and to advocate for supportive government policies.

That's me (above) wearing our t-Shirt and spreading the word!

**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.**

## TIMPRO CT NEWS

Following the day-long workshop, the April 11, 2015 Annual Meeting was called to order by Vice President Henry Gundlach. Brennan Sheahan was appointed president in the place of Stephanie Gillotti who stepped down due to time constraints.

Giving the Legislative Committee Report, Joan Nichols noted that most of what we try to do is keep members up to date with legislation affecting the forest products industry. The fastest and most practical way is through email. The only new regulation last year was the Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) held off acting until they had input from Massachusetts and Rhode Island thus giving the forest products industry a little more time to adjust to the new regulations. Everything TIMPRO CT members need to know about moving wood products is on the CAES website. There has been little legislation concerning Forestry mostly because of budget concerns. On the senate calendar is SB867 bill, concerning the movement of firewood and dealing with the fine structure of moving ash firewood. Also coming up are two house bills concerning the use of Jake Breaks because of objections to the noise level. Outdoor Wood Furnaces regulation seems to have moved from the state to the local level. We need to be vigilant as some organizations have successfully banned OWF at the local level.

LOG A LOAD FOR KIDS, the fund-raising event that helps support Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Harford, will take place Saturday, September 26, at the Woodstock, CT fairgrounds in conjunction with "Celebrating Agriculture." Please use the enclosed flyer to donate to this special cause.



### 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](http://www.timproct.org).

## BRENNAN SHEAHAN BECOMES NEW TIMPRO CT PRESIDENT

Brennan Sheahan, the new president of TIMPRO CT is well known to our members for the many CEU workshops he organizes. He plans to build on that activity in a straightforward way. "I really just want to keep TIMPRO CT active," Brennan said, "and follow in Joan Nichols' footsteps. Joan pointed us in the right direction." He will continue to plan workshops and will keep an eye on state legislation. Staffing at the state level is another critical issue. "It leads to a problem for licensing and certification," he noted.

Brennan has worked as a licensed forester within the State of CT for 13 years. During this time he has met and built many relationships with forest practitioners from all four corners of the State. Brennan came to CT with a Bachelor degree in Forest Land Management from the University of New Hampshire. He grew up in central NH and was raised in a logging family. From this background, he has gained understanding of the difficulty in maintaining a successful logging business.

Brennan realizes that an organization that promotes the positives of the forest products industry is key to keeping the forest industry thriving within the State of CT. Membership is the backbone of any organization and it is Brennan's goal to raise the awareness of TIMPRO CT and to gain more members. "The most effective way to raise membership is to communicate to our forest products community and let them know that a great organization such as TIMPRO CT is out there working hard for every individual/company within the State of Connecticut. There are over 400 licensed forest practitioners in our State and I would like to see at least half of them become members."

Brennan, a forester with Hull Forest Products, is also a devoted family man who spends lots of time with his children, Emma, Anja, and Gavin, ages 16, 13, and 9. "When I am not in the woods working, I am still in the woods exploring the great wonders that nature has given us with my family." Brennan and his wife Deborah spend many weekends with the kids and their two black labs hitting the trails of Connecticut. They are all active runners, cyclists and outdoor enthusiasts. And when they're not enjoying these activities, you might just find them at Fenway Park enjoying a game or two ("Go, Red Sox!").



## APRIL 11 WORKSHOP

More than 50 members attended the workshop and Annual Meeting on April 11. Incoming President Brennan Sheahan (right) opened the workshop which provided an in-depth look at wetlands issues affecting the forest products industry.



*Photographs courtesy of Bob Carrington*



Joan Nichols, Certified Forester and Technical Service Provider to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), reviewed using the USDA NRCS Web Soil Survey (WSS) to develop soils maps and determine acreages for timber harvesting plans and wetlands maps. The USDA NRCS WSS provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey and is the largest natural resource information system in the world with soil maps and data online for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties. Updated and maintained online as the single authoritative source of soil survey information, it anticipates having 100 percent in the near future.. Soil surveys can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning but onsite investigation is needed in cases, such as soil quality assessments and certain conservation and engineering applications.



Bill Maier Tensor demonstrated a product called Geo Grid to a group including Greg Krol from Belcher Town Mass (in cap) and Board Of Directors member Andy Clark from Old Saybrook (right foreground)



Jerry Bellows, TIMPRO CT Secretary, (seated) and Brennan Sheahan, TIMPRO CT President, (standing) take a moment to chat with Steve Tallman, TIMPRO CT Treasurer (back to camera)



Demonstrating erosion control and slope stabilization products is Joe Koziell from North American Green.

## News You Can Use

### CT-DEEP STAFF CHANGES ANNOUNCED

Retirements and promotions have brought changes in staff and assignments to Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Forestry Division.

- Helene Hochholzer is now Supervisor for Forest Protection.
- William Hochholzer is now State Lands Supervisor.
- Daniel Perrachio is DEEP's new Forest Planner/Forest Legacy Coordinator, Helene's former position.
- Sheila Hoefle, the Division secretary, recently passed the DEEP forester's exam and will be able to provide a much higher level of administrative program support.

There was no replacement as of press time for Rob Rocks as private lands service forester in central Connecticut or for William Hochholzer's position as field forester with the state's Land Management program.

The Department was also able to hire several experienced seasonal employees for most positions.

Lisa Coverdale, Connecticut's State Conservationist, will be leaving to become State Conservationist in Montana. Since coming to Connecticut in January 2013, She successfully led the USDA-NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) staff during challenging times including the blizzard of 2013, and the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, both of which left a trail of devastation and resulted in many collapsed seasonal high tunnels. Her impact on Connecticut was substantial: honoring women who are a part of agriculture and the environment in the state through the Women Inspiring Conservation in Connecticut Initiative; opening up networking opportunities for new and beginning farmers; ensuring access to NRCS's technical and financial assistance programs; and expanding NRCS's reach throughout Connecticut.



Kurt Lindeland of Connecticut Forest Products, a division of Mulch Distributors, invites TIMPRO CT members to visit the new high-capacity chipping facility. He writes, "We started chipping in May of 2014. Things are going great! Connecticut Forest Products is in full swing chipping anywhere from 6-15 loads a day. We are aggressively buying ALL species of pulp and saw logs. (ALL Hardwood, Hemlock, All Pines, Poplar, Cottonwood, etc). CFP is constantly growing with new customers and vendors daily. We are excited about the short and long term future. We would invite anyone interested in seeing the mill to call me anytime." You can reach him via his cell, 860-916-2764.

## SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE DETECTED IN CONNECTICUT



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) have announced that the Southern Pine Beetle (*Dendroctonus frontalis*) was detected in Wallingford, CT on March 17, 2015. The identification has been confirmed by officials of the USDA Forest Service. This is the first detection of this pest in Connecticut. Four sites in New Haven County and one each in Litchfield and Hartford counties have been confirmed positive for the beetle. The Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) is native to the Southeastern United States and has long been a major pest of timber plantations in that region. The beetle can overwhelm and kill healthy trees. Dr. Kirby C. Stafford, State Entomologist, said "it is disappointing to have yet another forest insect pest introduced into the state, but as this is a beetle native to the U.S., there will be no Federal or State regulation on movement or disposal of infested trees or wood." The Southern Pine Beetle predominately attacks hard pines. Several

of Connecticut's non-native hard pines are vulnerable, i.e. Red Pine, Scotch Pine, Austrian Pine. Pitch pine is the native tree of most concern. Once abundant, it now remains in scattered patches throughout the state due to development of its preferred habitat, (the sand-plain ecosystem). "Although pitch pine contributes little to the overall make up of Connecticut's forests, its potential loss is of grave concern primarily due to the unique and highly valued habitat it provides for rare and endangered species dependent upon pine-oak sandy barrens." said Christopher Martin, Director of Forestry, DEEP. While SPB will attack eastern white pine, our most abundant pine, it is a non-preferred host. SPB, a southern species, has been slowly expanding its range northward in recent years.

## CONNECTICUT ATF PROGRAM SUSPENDED

The American Tree Farm Certification Program has been suspended in the state of Connecticut. Michael Burns, Certification Manager in the American Tree Farm System Washington DC office, explained in an email, "The Connecticut Tree Farm Program has been experiencing a bit of difficulty over the past couple of years, and we are working to reestablish a viable committee and leadership. As a result of the lack of activity, all Connecticut Tree Farms were moved from 'Certified' to 'Recognition' category late in 2014." Participants already certified are still in the system but their property cannot be labeled "Certified" because there is no way to verify if they meet or exceed ATF Standards of Sustainability. Tom Worthley, Associate Extension Professor at UCONN, who served on the Connecticut ATF committee for many years, explained in an email: "The ATF program depends on the willingness of the professional community to volunteer their time to perform inspections and keep landowners enrolled and go through trainings to maintain inspection credentials. I would guess that a Tree Farm Program could be re-activated in CT, if there were sufficient perceived value for the professionals who need to be part of the program. There are a number of competing assistance and recognition programs available to woodland owners, and the professional community of CT-Certified Foresters tends to be more closely aligned with those." And, he added, "Management for forest products is pretty low on the list of priorities for most woodland owners."



## ***Bits and Chokers***

A study conducted by the North East State Foresters Association and released by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection confirms the economic value of the state's forests. In all, forests contribute \$3.3 billion annually to Connecticut coffers. The forest products industry accounts \$2.1 billion a year and 8,200 jobs. Forest recreation activities account for \$1.2 billion and 4,600 jobs.

With approximately 1.8 million acres of forest land, about three-quarters family-owned, we grow approximately 96 million cubic feet of timber annually with approximately 13.7 million cubic of timber harvested in the same time period. Among the report's findings:

- The net volume of sawtimber size increased 94% from 1985 to 2013.
- Approximately 14% (13,703,316 cubic feet) of Connecticut's net annual growth is harvested annually meaning the state is adding over 82 million cubic feet to its tree inventory each year. This fact helps explain Connecticut's mature forest canopy and susceptibility to inclement weather such as hurricanes and load-bearing snowfalls.
- Secondary wood products sales where logs are transformed into products such as furniture, cabinetry, and flooring accounted for an annual economic output of \$418 million supported by a \$118 million payroll in Connecticut.
- The 2012 US Census Bureau's American Community Survey showed Connecticut experienced a 120% increase from 2005 to 2012 in the number of homes that primarily heat with wood. These 29,000 homes used either firewood or wood pellets.
- 2014 combined wholesale and retail value of Christmas trees and maple syrup sales exceeded \$4 million.

Annual Fall foliage viewing is the largest forest-based recreation contributor comprising 25% of the \$1.2 billion sales annually for the Connecticut economy.

See the full report at [www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/forestry/ct\\_forest\\_based\\_economy.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/forestry/ct_forest_based_economy.pdf)

Hull Forestry Products made a logging truck available for a worthy cause, the Willington Touch A Truck fundraiser on May 16. Driver Cliff Weglarz reported that for three hours children happily enjoyed climbing in and out of the truck and blowing the air horn. Cliff reports that he was very impressed with the event and would do it again.

*Photograph courtesy of Debra Linares,  
Willington Public Library*





## MEET CLARENCE "PETE" MERRILL

With a blend of New Hampshire and Connecticut in his voice, Clarence "Pete" Merrill represents a proud New England tradition of service to the community and the environment. Graduating in 1960 with a BA in forestry from the University of New Hampshire, he began his career as a service forester working with private forest landowners.

After 4 ½ years, he came here to run the state nursery in Voluntown. He then managed timber sales for the state and helped launch the Game of Logging here. Although he stepped down in 1992 after 26 years with the state, he still actively manages his Christmas tree farm.

His years of experience in both the public and private sector offer a unique perspective on changes for the good and not-so-good in the state. "When I came to Connecticut in 1967, I had a crew of 16-17 people," he recalled. "Today there are only 2 service foresters for the entire state." Staff cuts affect outreach to private forestland owners. "One of the challenges I encountered is that forest products need to be harvested but a lot of owners don't see income as significant. They want privacy or to just own the land. Timber production is very low on the list," he said. "In my lifetime I've seen at least four studies by the Forest Service trying to push better management but people aren't interested."

It's not all the landowners' fault, he conceded. He credits the 1991 law on licensing for improving forest practices. "It has brought the quality of management up," he said. "We're not going to get good forest management unless we get good harvesting."

He sees markets as a critical challenge in Connecticut. "There's not a lot of manufacturing left," he noted. "No big mills. We used to have a pulpwood market in Rhode Island for shingles. And we sold smallwood for lobster pots. Those markets enabled us to do a lot of TSI to free up white pine."

Another handicap he sees in Connecticut is weight restrictions on trucks. "The limits are lower here than in other states. That's hard on our local loggers," he said. And even without weight restrictions, the cost of equipment such as a feller buncher rules out the kind of TSI many stands need. "The market in biofuels might help," he suggested, "but it's much better if we can get and cut quality timber."

Overall, he sees niche markets as critical for the future. "I can sell red cedar for posts and boards for horse paddocks. It is naturally rot resistant so it doesn't need to be treated. People don't have to worry if their horses nibble on it. You have to know all the niche markets. The most successful loggers know their markets and that's the only way you can do it. Another example is tulip poplar. There's not a lot of it but there's a good market for it."

But finding niche markets isn't easy. He still recalls the black walnut someone had cut down a couple of years ago. "I could not get anyone to take it. There just wasn't a market for it here."

Niche markets aside, Merrill sums up Connecticut prospects by naming one essential: "Yankee ingenuity."



## ***UNDERSTANDING CONNECTICUT WOODLAND OWNERS***

This 2011 survey of private forest landowners reveals that some 17,000 families and individuals own close to 600,000 acres of forest across the state in parcels of 10 or more acres. That's about 34% of Connecticut's forestland.

Who are these owners and what do they want to do with their property?

For one, this is an older population with only 15% under the age of 50. About 40 % are retired. Most primary owners (70%) are men and 27% of those are over 70. These landowners express concern about caring for their property as they grow older. A major concern for these owners is keeping land intact for future generations. Much as they say they want to, almost 1/3 would sell their land for a reasonable offer. That amounts to about 300,000 acres. In focus groups, age came up again and again as a key reason owners would consider selling. A result would be more forest fragmentation. Connecticut has already lost 169,000 acres of core forest from 1985 to 2006.

These forest landowners have more formal education than the general population so they might be receptive to appropriately designed education programs. Indeed, they express a strong conservation ethic and place a very high value on the lifestyle that comes with forestland ownership. They value the beauty and scenery of their property and the privacy it gives them. They want to protect wildlife and promote biological diversity. Some 80% want their property to stay intact to benefit the community and improve the environment beyond their community.

Only 5% own land for financial reasons although 19% of those surveyed would like to see stronger timber markets. Unfortunately, owners are uncertain about where or how to get advice about income-generating activities. Some owners aren't even sure of the difference between a forester and a logger. Many don't understand the distinctions among DEEP foresters, UCONN Extension foresters, and private consultants.

Connecticut presented a unique opportunity to Mary Tyrrell, Executive Director of the Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. She realized Connecticut, a state of extremes -- densely populated but also heavily forested -- was not well represented in national studies of private forest landowners, such as the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Forest Service National Woodland Owners Survey.

"The nationwide survey relies on a sample of about one landowner for every 6,000 acres," Ms. Tyrrell explained. "But our state is so small that the sample picks up only fewer than 100 Connecticut landowners. I felt an in-depth study would tell us a lot." She gathered information for a detailed picture of forestland in private hands: who owns it, what they do with their forests, and what they plan, or don't plan, to do in the future. *Understanding Connecticut Woodland Owners* is rich in quantitative data about the families: the size range of holdings, their distribution, the age groupings of owners, and the owners' plans for succession.

What's next now that the report is concluded? "The Forest Service will conduct another survey in about five years," says Ms. Tyrrell. "Now I hope Chris Martin, the folks at Connecticut Forest & Park Association, Audubon, and others will use this information at the state policy level."

Ms. Tyrrell has provided us invaluable information regarding the resource that supports our livelihood.

	Primary Owner	Secondary Owner
Primary Residence	83%	
Has a farm nearby	15%	
Years owned		
0 – 10	26%	
11 – 20	18%	
21 – 50	45%	
50+	5%	
Purchased	78%	
Inherited	22%	
Gender	70%	70%
Age		
Under 50	14%	16%
51 – 70	60%	67%
70+	27%	17%
Bachelors or advanced degree	51%	62%
Household annual income		
Less than 25,000	8%	
25,000 – 50,000	19%	
50,000 – 100,000	41%	
100,000 – 200,000	16%	
Over 200,000	16%	

This confusion prevents many owners from managing their woods properly. One owner described a logging operation on a neighbor’s property: “...Their log skidders went all over the place, caused extensive erosion.. I ..was totally disgusted. Any thought I had about logging, I said ‘No, I’m not going to do anything about it.’ ” Typically, many forest landowners believe in “hands off, let nature take its course.” They don’t realize this course of action is not sound forestry and is not good news for a state with a \$500 million dollar forest products industry.

Despite the stated “hands off” approach, landowners are actually cutting lots of trees, especially for firewood. As one survey participant said, cutting wood “beats going to the gym.” Yet almost 60% of these landowners who have cut trees do not seem to manage their property actively, at least not as natural resource professionals would define good stewardship. Nor do they participate in landowner assistance programs, attend workshops, seek advice or help from

professionals, or have conservation easements to protect their land from future development.

In the words of the report, this gap between high stewardship values and low participation in assistance programs “makes them what can be called ‘prime prospects’ for well-designed programs and outreach campaigns.” Significantly, traditional landowner assistance programs don’t reach this group. The report proposes programs with a “lighter touch” and “assistance focused on activities landowners enjoy, and [on] solving landowners’ problems” such as building a trail or cutting firewood. Involvement with

professionals in small ways might lead to bigger steps later. But developing such programs is a challenge when there are only two extension foresters in the state. With government/extension services so limited, the answer may be partnerships with land trusts, Connecticut Forest & Parks Association, Audubon Connecticut, and other conservation groups.

	Northeast	Northwest	Southeast	Southwest
% of CT woodland owners (1+ ac)	25%	39%	15%	21%
% of owners in each region in 1-9 ac class	84%	88%	82%	96%
% of owners in each region in 10+ ac class	16%	12%	18%	4%

Finally, size of holding does matter but not in the way we tend to think. While it’s tempting to focus efforts on larger properties, some 300,000 acres are currently in holdings of less than 10 acres. The owners of these properties need good advice and support. Yet Connecticut has only one urban forester to serve 122,000 such landowners scattered throughout the state.

As the report states, “Healthy and well-managed private forestlands are critical to achieving Connecticut’s goals to conserve, improve, and protect the state’s natural resources and the environment.” TIMPRO CT has been active in important legislation that supports private landowners. We can do still more in helping educate landowners and providing resources for proper woodland management.



PO Box 508  
Oneco, CT 06373

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015

### 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](mailto:info@timproct.org)

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

[hallie.metzger@rcn.com](mailto:hallie.metzger@rcn.com)

*Check calendar on Timpro website for any changes.*

**Wednesday, August 6, Plant Science Day, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's Lockwood Farm, 890 Evergreen Avenue, Hamden, CT**

**September 4 to 7, Woodstock Fair, Woodstock Fairgrounds, Woodstock, CT. Volunteers needed for our both here. Check the time slots online or email [info@timproct.org](mailto:info@timproct.org).**

**Saturday, September 26, Log A Load and Game of Logging at "Celebrating Agriculture," Woodstock Fairgrounds, Woodstock, CT**

### 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](mailto:info@timproct.org).