

# ***The Cutting Edge*** →



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Perry Sawyer

**Editor** Hallie Metzger



# **RETURN**

# **OF**

# **THE**

# **GYPSY MOTH**

## **WHAT HAPPENED IN 2016 ....**

## **.... WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2017**

**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

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### PLANT SCIENCE DAY

TIMPRO CT displayed information at a Plant Science Day booth on August 3. This event is sponsored by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station at Lockwood Farm, its research facility in Hamden. TIMPRO CT President Brennan Sheahan reported, "Lots of folks stopped by with questions. The weather was spectacular." CAES reported that the gate count for the day was 1,183 - the highest count the event has had in recent years.

### WELCOME TO VOLUNTEER

Thank you to Julie Fontaine, a volunteer assisting Jerry Bellows with membership renewals, editing membership data, CEU workshop mailings, and sign-in sheets as well as producing certificates and answering the phone.

### STAFF OPPORTUNITY AND THANKS

Steve Tallman, Treasurer since 2007, is stepping down and moving out of state and we need a new member to take over. This position involves maintaining our monthly account balance, preparing the annual budget, paying bills in a timely manner, and balancing our accounts with accuracy. Any member is welcome to apply and your help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Steve, for all the dedicated years you've given us!

### TOUCH A TRUCK

Cliff Weglarz once again volunteered to drive a Hull Forest Products log truck to the Willington Public Library for its Touch A Truck fundraiser on May 21. He brought candy as well and reported that the children all had a great time.

TIMPRO CT is proud to participate in Log A Load, the annual fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network Hospital. Inside this newsletter is a donor form to fill out. Your generosity is appreciated.



### 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.

## MASTER LOGGER WORKSHOP

By Brennan Sheahan, TIMPRO CT President

CT Timber Producers Association had another full house for the June 24<sup>th</sup> *Master Logger Program*. More than 40 folks showed up at the Windham County UCONN Extension Center in Brooklyn, CT to see what Ted Wright (right) of the Master Logger Program had to offer.

The morning started off on a good note with yummy donuts from Mrs. Murphy's out of Southwick, MA. Ted introduced the benefits of the Master Logger Program. He went over what it means to be a member, what is involved, and how to become a member. There were lots of questions from the audience.

After a break, TIMPRO CT member Perry Sawyer spoke about his participation for many years in this program. He gave a realistic overview of its benefits and just what



*A morning session indoors led to.....*

it means to him to be a Master Logger. He fielded lots of questions as well from the audience and did a fantastic job painting a very clear picture of the program.

After the insightful morning presentation and discussion, participants were ready to hit the woods. TIMPRO CT provided everyone a bagged lunch and we drove east some 15 miles or so to the 900-acre Barbara Bates property located in West Glocester, RI to meet up with brand new Master Logger, Robert Thurber. [See *Profile of Thurber, page 9*] He explained why he joined the Master Logger program and how he foresees the program benefiting his business moving forward. We then took a ½ mile hike into the active timber harvest and took a look at several stream crossings and other good uses of BMP's.



*...a presentation in the field by Robert Thurber*

The day was well spent. I believe the participants were given a clear description of how the Master Logger Program works and how it might benefit their businesses. A big thank you to Ted Wright for coming down from Maine to introduce us to this special program. A great big thank you to both Perry Sawyer and Robert Thurber for taking the time to give our membership a true look into their reasons for joining this program.

*Photos courtesy of Brennan Sheahan*

## 2016 TIMPRO CT SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



By the time you read this, **Mary Reilly**, a graduate of Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury, will have completed a cross-country trip with her family to Montana State University in Bozeman where she plans to study fish and wildlife ecology and management.

Going to college out West will enable Mary to combine her great love of the outdoors with her love of horses. "I started riding in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade," she explained. "I was doing gymkhana." This event times riders negotiating a pattern or playing games such as "egg-in-the-spoon" races. "At camp in Vermont, I learned to ride English saddle. Back here in Connecticut, I worked on dressage riding. Now I just started learning to rope. I want to do calf-roping. I was hoping there would be a way to combine all my interests," she said, "And

there is – out West." In her research, she found that western states use some mounted fish and game wardens. That led to her choice of Montana for college.

Mary's inspiration and skills come from family activities, starting with family gatherings to watch "North Woods Law" on Animal Planet. At Unity College Fish and Game Warden camp in Maine, "I even got to meet some of the show's stars. They're real people, very down to earth," she recalled.

But Mary's introduction to the outdoors goes way beyond television. She volunteers with her father for the fishing trips he offers on his party barge to veterans through the Fraternal Order of Elks. "All the veterans come with nurses," Mary explained. "Some of the vets are in the 'Blind Unit.' They come with seeing-eye dogs. Dad and I help them fish. Then we all have a big picnic."

At Nonnewaug, Mary participated in the Future Farmers of America and was a member of the Varsity Debate Team and of the Middlebury Rifle Club. But horses still rule for her and she volunteered at Hidden Acres Therapeutic Riding Program. "I love working outdoors," she stated. "I want to protect our natural resources so that everyone can enjoy them."



*Photos this page courtesy of Mary Reilly. Opposite page courtesy of Anna Meassick.*

Lyman Hall High School graduate, **Anna Meassick** has her eye on a career with the Environmental Protection Agency or US Fish and Wildlife Service.

"My wildlife biology teacher Emily Picard got me interested as part of the Agricultural Science program," Anna said. "She encouraged me. She said, 'You're going to join the Wildlife Society in college. You're going to be its president at some point.' She has high expectations! And now I have ended up doing a project for the USFW on shrubland habitats and I'm going to University of Rhode Island."



Anna developed her passion through a USFWS project on shrubland habitat. Her experience at the Natural Resources Conservation Academy at University of Connecticut in 2015 made her realize how shrinking habitat threatened species such as the New England cottontail.

This past year she was a laboratory assistant at the Environmental Monitoring Lab in Wallingford. And for the past three years she worked at NOAA's Phytoplankton Monitoring Unit at Stony Creek hunting harmful phytoplankton in Long Island Sound. She recalled, "I saw *Pseudo nitzschia spp* that produces domoic acid. Excess amounts could cause amnesia and nerve damage in people if they eat clams that have eaten it. But this has never been a problem in Long Island Sound."

In addition to her science courses, Anna belonged to the Lyman Hall FFA and held the Lyman Hall FFA Chapter Star in Agriscience three years in a row for her research with the Phytoplankton Monitoring Lab. She has also

volunteered at the New Britain Youth Museum at Hungerford Park where she helped care for Tootsie the tortoise and Wilma the cow.

Anna also loves to read. "I am a passionate reader of James Patterson. I've read all his Women's Murder Club series and I own the whole collection. I met him when he came to Connecticut for a talk on the 14<sup>th</sup> book in the series. Getting to shake his hand and take a photo with him was the highlight of 2015," she said. "I love all types of art, too, from drawing to photography and digital art. I really enjoyed *Finding Dory*. It was amazing! At college I'll get a pet fish – a beta. I don't want a blue Dory due to poaching and illegal sales."

Beyond fish and phytoplankton, Anna would like to see giraffes in the wild. "There's a place in Kenya where you can watch them from your hotel window," she noted. "I'd also like to visit every single national park in the country." And Europe? Yes, but she did take a class trip from Rome to Sicily after her sophomore year as part of her Italian studies at Lyman Hall. "At the end of the trip, in Sicily," she recalled, "we took a walk right after it rained and a giant rainbow came out." It's a fitting omen for Anna's future.

### GYPSY MOTH REPORT, 2016—2017

Aided by weather, a huge gypsy moth outbreak earlier this spring left acres of trees so defoliated, it looked as if it were mid-winter. Dr. Kirby Stafford, Chief Scientist of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and State Entomologist, noted, “The *Entomophaga mai-maiga* fungus has pretty much kept gypsy moth populations under control ever since it was discovered in 1989.”

But the fungus relies on moist weather in the spring to infect the gypsy moth caterpillars. So, depending on the spring weather, control of gypsy moth caterpillars fluctuates and the lack of spring rains can lead, in turn, to outbreaks in the moth population.

Some 180,000 acres were impacted by the gypsy moth in 2015 and Dr. Stafford expects that acreage to increase in 2016. Also, defoliation was much more intense this year than last year. “Many trees were completely stripped, although not in every location, and the caterpillars even attacked conifers. They only hit conifers if they’re super abundant or there’s nothing left to eat. A woman reported that her 30 spruce trees had been stripped. My understanding is that the conifers don’t recover,” he noted.

Eastern Connecticut was especially hard hit. “This year calls started coming in and people sent pictures of bare trees. Rains prompted some fungal activity, but not enough. While some people in Middlesex County began to see a few dead and dying caterpillars, Tolland County, Windham, and New London Counties had little rain and will potentially face a big outbreak next year. A lot of adult moth activity was reported again this year,” Dr. Stafford said.

With no state spraying programs, homeowners and forestland owners have few options, Dr. Stafford explained. “Neighbors could pool together for early season spraying next year with BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*). On a small scale, people could try suffocating the accessible caterpillar egg masses by local use of a vegetable oil/water mixture. An arborist can treat individual trees next year. If we had had the rains at the right time this year, the fungus could have done its job and the outbreak would be over.”



*The bare branches make a lacy pattern against the sky—almost like winter. But these are trees denuded in spring. Photo courtesy of Brennan Sheahan*

## CONNECTICUT SUPREME COURT RULING SUPPORTS FORESTRY

By Brennan Sheahan, TIMPRO CT President

The Connecticut Supreme Court recently handed down a landmark ruling in Indian Spring Land Company versus the Town of Greenwich regarding road construction in wetlands:

"We [the Connecticut Supreme Court] conclude that road construction directly related to farming operations is permitted as of right under the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act; General Statutes 22a-36 et seq.; and, therefore, that the agency did not have jurisdiction to regulate the construction of the plaintiff's access road. We reverse the judgment of the trial court."

The original lawsuit centered on two issues. One was the authority of the Town of Greenwich. It's specific to that municipality. But the other relates to forestry throughout the state: Is silvicultural activity directly related to farming exempt under Connecticut's General Statutes? The great news for us is that the Connecticut Supreme Court got that question right.

The trouble started in 2012 when Indian Spring Land Company applied to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency for approval of a forest management plan on a parcel of its land as an exempt activity under Connecticut General Statutes 22a-40 and also for construction of a gravel access road and associated bridge spanning wetlands under the same exemption. The agency issued a letter of permission for the management plan as falling within the exemption for silvicultural activities. But in a separate permit for the bridge, the agency required that it be temporary and be removed after each successive yearly slate of activities in the forest had been completed.

Indian Spring Land Company appealed these restrictions stating, among other points, that the proposed road was altogether exempt under the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act. The trial court, however, ruled that no road construction can lay claim to the exemption. Its ruling hinged on interpretation of the statute's language that *"the provisions of this subdivision shall not be construed to include road-building or the erection of buildings not directly related to the farming operation."*

In other words, the trial court viewed agriculture and forest management as fundamentally separate and different activities. That view was overturned by the Connecticut Supreme Court.

While the trial ruling also addressed the right of the Town of Greenwich to regulate forestry activities, that aspect is less critical to TIMPRO members than the ruling that forestry *is* an agricultural activity. This ruling applies to all 169 Connecticut municipalities. Many times I have been told by local wetlands commission members that the State Statutes weren't including harvesting timber within their definitions. Now they can read the decision and reconsider their stand.

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD: ETHIOPIA

By Kimi Sekorski, 2014 Scholarship winner



*Our team took a day off to hike to a waterfall.*

visiting sites under restoration, we hiked to some waterfalls and visited hot springs. But my favorite part was simply meeting villagers everywhere. Ethiopians are some of the most hospitable people I have ever met and the children are adorable. I hope to go back in the future and see how the newly planted forest has thrived.

Growing up, I was always told "Finish your dinner. There are starving children in Africa." But actually seeing it first-hand was mind blowing. It really gave me a sense of how lucky we are to live the life we do here in the United States.

*Photos courtesy of Kimi Sekorski*

My two and a half weeks in Ethiopia were an eye-opening experience.

I went there with nine other students from my school, Paul Smith's. Our purpose was to study ecological restoration. The landscape there is severely degraded due to overgrazing. That leads to a lot of runoff with resulting erosion. The erosion in turn creates a poor watershed and poor conditions for growing crops.

We started off teaming up with several villages where we planted a variety of trees to regenerate the forest. It was absolutely incredible to see how many villagers came out to help. There were hundreds! While we were there, we stayed at the Wando Genet School of Forestry and Natural Resources. It was really special to talk with other students who are interested in the same topics we are learning about back home.

When we weren't planting trees or



*With the help of villagers, we planted a new forest.*

## TIMPRO CT PROFILE: MASTER LOGGER BOB THURBER

TIMPRO CT member Robert T. “Bob” Thurber Jr., owner and operator of Jerimoth Forestry in Foster, RI, wasn’t thinking about workshops when he got to talking with Joan Nichols. “She told me Brennan was looking to do something with the Master Logger Program. As it happened, I’d just been accepted,” he said. And so he volunteered to host part of the June 24 session and talk about the program.

A recipient of the 2009 Northeast Loggers Association “Logger of the Year” Award, Bob might not seem to need any further training. He started cutting firewood growing up in Glocester, RI and bought his first chainsaw – an old Stihl – when he was 12. After graduating from Paul Smith’s College, he returned to his hometown and worked for Hull Forest Products as a forester before founding Jerimoth Forestry, named for the hill on the farm where he lives. He was already an experienced woodsman by then and has completed all four levels of Game of Logging, is trained in Remote Logger Rescue, and is licensed in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. But that’s not the point, he explained. “I knew the Master Logger Program was an outstanding credential. It means being open to the highest level of criticism there is,” he said.

“I expected a roast,” Bob continued, “but the feedback was all good. I met loggers I’d never known before and I was very pleased with the experience. It’s not a fit for everyone. You’re continuously monitored even after completing the program. There are random field audits. And it’s not all about the woods,” he emphasized. “There’s also a focus on paperwork and how to talk to owners to alleviate misunderstandings.”



At Jerimoth, Bob runs more than ten pieces of equipment including a CAT 525 Dual Arch grapple skidder, a John Deere 643 feller buncher, and a 14” Morbark chipper. But he treasures a 1979 John Deere 440C skidder with a swing boom – small and versatile – that he bought when he first started out. He has worked in all kinds of forests and under all conditions. “I’m currently working in an old growth stand and I can relate to the character in *Bob and The Trees*,” he said, “I tend to be very disciplined.”

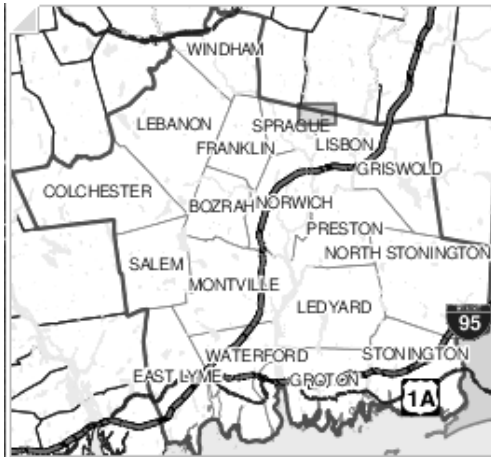
And that’s no exaggeration.

*Photos courtesy of Martha Thoman*



## BITS AND CHOKERS

### OF TREES.....



Does solar energy trump woody biomass? Last year the Connecticut Siting Council authorized razing some 134 acres of trees for a major solar installation. *The Norwich Bulletin* reported that the Council "signed off on the 97,000-panel solar farm to be constructed on 200 acres between Potash Hill and Westminster roads by Albany, N.Y.-based Coronal Development Services... The \$50 million venture will produce 20 megawatts of electricity for Eversource and United Illuminating, which has power purchase agreements." The town expects to re-

ceive more than \$750,000 in annual tax revenue filling a gap left by the departure of Fusion Paperboard, its largest taxpayer. Site development is expected to clear approximately 21,130 trees with a diameter of 6 inches or greater. A development and management plan addressed ecological issues, including protecting habitat of two federally or state-designated threatened species: The wood turtle and long-eared bat. Officials said thousands of trees were being removed from the private property as well but town tree warden Dave Gustafson said no trees would be taken down on public land.

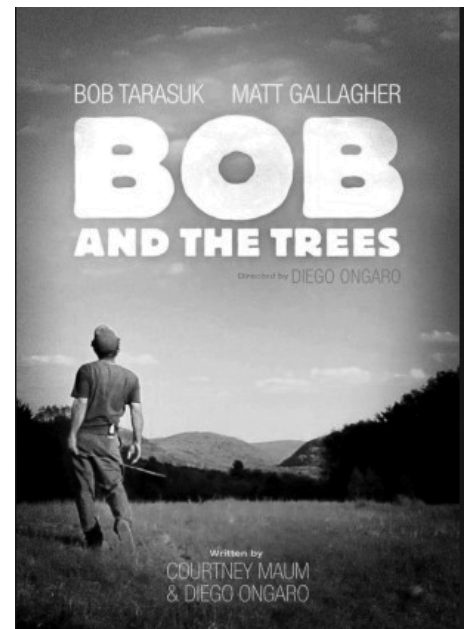
*The Norwich Bulletin citation courtesy of TIMPRO CT member Andy Clark*

### ..... AND TRADE

*Bloomberg News* reported this year that the surge of home building has prompted the biggest rally in lumber prices since the 2008 recession. But that surge has led to a trade dispute by bringing more Canadian wood into the market. Almost a third of the wood used in US homebuilding now comes from Canada. That may mean increased import tariffs unless the US and Canada can iron out a softwood lumber trade agreement before October. The former trade agreement expired last year and opened the door for what US softwood producers call a system of unfair subsidies for Canadian exports. Exports surged to 7.45 billion board feet in the first half of the year, up 20% from the same period the previous year. Commerce Department data show that construction rose 4.8 percent from last year to this year. However, this new demand is not going to American softwood producers. A letter from 25 senators has asked US Trade Representative Michael Froman to insist that the new trade agreement include strong protection for domestic jobs. If the two countries fail to reach an agreement by next month's deadline, tariffs will increase the cost of importing wood from Canadian producers such as West Fraser Timber and Canfor.

## LOGGING IS ENTERTAINMENT?

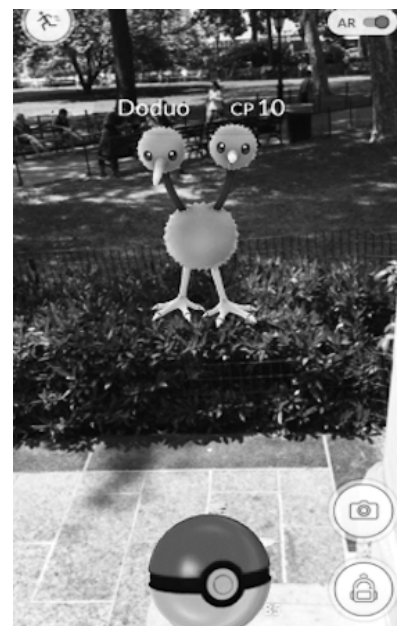
Can Logging be entertaining? Let's start with *Bob and the Trees*. This 2015 movie currently streaming on Netflix features Bob, a fifty-something logger struggling to make a living in the Berkshires. In the course of a year he deals with physical injury, a punishing winter storm, and the demands of livestock plus mounting debt. Facing an avalanche of challenges, he seeks comfort in rap and golf. Sundance Review praised the movie for "a rich vein of humanism." Its humanism is surely rooted in the fact that Bob is played by real-life logger Robert Tarasuk of Massachusetts. Polly McIntyre never hits a false note as his loving but independent wife. In fact, all the parts are played with such authenticity that it seems more a documentary than a film.



Even more surprising might be the role logging plays in video games. Minecraft players, for example, can farm trees, including tropical species. A tutorial ([minecraft.gamepedia.com/Tutorials/Tree\\_farming#Jungle\\_Trees](http://minecraft.gamepedia.com/Tutorials/Tree_farming#Jungle_Trees)) walks players through considerations such as spacing, available light, watering, and fertilizing. Players can create a realistic forest with trees at every

stage from sapling to maturity and can indicate seasonal changes through leaf colors. Players can even add stumps and decaying trees.

Finally, if you've seen people walking around, faces glued to cell-phones, and exclaiming, "I got one!" they may be playing Pokemon Go. Players capture Pokemon, such as the Duoduo, right, in real areas, including parks and forests. The original Pokemon was a 1995 Gameboy game by Nintendo. Using GPS on smartphones, Nintendo collaborated with Niantic, a Google company, to create an augmented reality video to play in the real world. Yes, even in forests.





PO Box 508  
Oneco, CT 06373

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016

### 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 CT website for any changes.*

**LOG A LOAD FOR KIDS, GAME OF LOGGING, SAT., SEPT. 24, WOODSTOCK, CT. FAIRGROUNDS. SEE LOG A LOAD DONOR FORM INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER.**

**FIRST AID & CPR CEU CLASS, THURS. SEPT. 15, CFPA OFFICE, WOODFIELD, CT. BROCHURE TO FOLLOW**

**NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK, OCTOBER 18-24**

For more information, contact TIMPRO CT 860 948-0432 or [info@timproct.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@timproct.org).