



A PUBLICATION OF THE CONNECTICUT
PROFESSIONAL TIMBER PRODUCERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.

MARCH 2016

ISSUE 23

The Cutting Edge →



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A UNIQUE LOGGING OPERATION ON UNIQUE PROPERTY



THE WHITNEY FOREST

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

JOAN NICHOLS RECEIVES AWARD

Joan Nichols has received the Working Lands Alliance 2015 Farmland Pathfinder Award as Education Leader. She was honored for her tireless work preserving Connecticut farmland and promoting "Right to Farm" bills.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Have you renewed your membership? Your support is vital for continuing TIMPRO CT's programs.

WELCOME NEW TIMPRO CT MEMBERS:

Scott Rossi, Scotland Hardwoods

Steven Strong, Strong Timber Frames & Sawmill

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN BOARD

Changes are coming to the TIMPRO CT Board. Long-standing treasurer Steve Tallman will be stepping down. Contact info@timproct.org for information about joining the Board.

ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR APRIL 22

The TIMPRO CT Annual Meeting Friday, April 22 will be held at the Hull Forest Warehouse, 321 Orchard Hill Road, Pomfret Center, following all-day workshops on chainsaw maintenance and safety and preventative equipment maintenance. See schedule on back page calendar.

JUNE EVENTS IN THE WORKS

The Board is working on several activities including a possible session about Master Logger certification.

Logging in the Whitney Forest provides useful lessons about the challenges facing TIMPRO CT members today. It's no longer just about cutting and marketing timber.

We also have to anticipate public perception of the logging operation and its aesthetics. This means considering elements that might really be landscaping, such as how best to dispose of debris or treat areas close to roads and trails. This also means educating the public about how the initial appearance of a logging operation will change over time.

In addition to aesthetics, we are called on to manage wildlife habitat, much as happened at Whitney Forest. This may mean increasing tree species diversity and the variety of age classes. Both objectives will improve habitat for the New England Cottontail as well as many songbirds.

Hallie Metzger, Editor

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.

CATCHING UP WITH OUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS: CHRISTIAN ALLYN, 2013



Christian Allyn has been working to upgrade the tracks of the Housatonic Railroad. In January 2015, he spoke at a rally staged by the Train Campaign of Massachusetts and Restore our Railway campaign of Northwestern Connecticut at the Canaan Union Depot and testified before the Connecticut Transportation legislative subcommittee on the issue. In April he was appointed to The American Chestnut Foundation's Connecticut Chapter where he is the youngest board member in its history. In November he was selected to be one of 15 to participate in the 2016 Leadership Legacy Experience, UConn's premier leadership program. Christian continues to give tours at the Beckley Furnace in North

Canaan, sit on the North Canaan Beautification, Streetscape and Greenway Committees of North Canaan, and is one of two representatives from North Canaan on the Housatonic River Commission. He adds: "There is big news regarding transgenic American Chestnut trees that may be available for sale in 2018. The American Chestnut may finally be coming back and possibly within my lifetime, as a timber tree." As if that isn't enough, Christian is working to start a business in Invasive Plant Control: "I just passed my supervisory pesticide written exam and I go in for the oral exam on the 24th. I am applying for a grant through the university to get my business started and should begin work this summer."

CATCHING UP WITH OUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS: DIANNA BLOOM, 2015

Dianna Bloom is thrilled with her first semester at Unity College in Maine: "I am glad to say that my first semester at Unity College went well. I passed all my classes with A's or B's and I made high honors for the school. Being at school so far away from home has been interesting. The interesting part is that it takes eleven miles to get out of Unity. This is strange because I'm so used to being able to take the 10 minute drive to the grocery store to get milk. I can take the 2 minute drive to go to the Shop n' Save but there is a 45 minute drive to go to Waterville and the Walmart. But that is what happens when you go to a larger, more rural state than Connecticut. I don't mind it though; its nice. It allows me to focus on school work during the week and I can go on trips on the weekend. The nice thing about Unity is we might be a small school but our students activities board does set up a lot of trips for us. I went to Bar Harbor one of the first weeks into the semester. They also offer camping trips or rafting trips. Just a lot of fun stuff. I did start my major this semester. I am happy to say I am going to stay in Conservation Law Enforcement but I'm not sure of the career path I want to take. I know I want to be a conservation officer but I don't know if I want to work at the state or federal level. Over the course of the semester my teacher had a lot of guest speakers come in and explain the different pathways we can take with our major. And in the lab we got to learn some basic skills like orienteering. I am happy I had such a great first semester and I can't wait to go back."

THE NORTHEAST REGIONAL FOREST INDUSTRY AND LANDOWNER ASSOCIATION

TIMPRO members Henry Gundlach, Joan Nichols, and Brennan Sheehan attended the 2015 Northeast Regional Forest Industry and Landowner Association gathering in Springfield, Massachusetts, December 3 and 4.

Joan and Brennan offered one of the Landowner and Industry Training sessions. They gave a summary of recent TIMPRO CT workshops. Their Forest Metrix Cruising Software/GPS workshop taught participants how to find boundaries and corners using the latest technologies and software. Another was the Industry Overview of the latest markets and industry developments. This was well attended by landowners and loggers. A successful strategy used to encourage participation at the TIMPRO annual meeting is hosting a workshop that morning which has historically drawn 100 to 150 participants.

Henry found the conference very interesting. "It was very nice to meet representatives from all the New England states as well as New York and Washington DC. There were no Canadians. The big thing that really caught me," he said, "was the lack of young people coming into the field. The State of Maine and John Deere are teaming up now to provide equipment and training. Vermont just got a grant to provide simulators for schools. Everyone who came agrees that the system needs young people." He also noted that the number of pulp mills is down in Maine but there is more work going into biomass.

Joan agrees with Henry's assessment. "Overall I think the conference was very worthwhile," she wrote. "The tour of Hull forestland property by Bill Hull showed a successful Connecticut company that has positioned itself well in the marketplace by acquiring company-owned forest land while diversifying its product portfolio. I found the tour of Cersosimo Lumber very interesting. They are another New England company that has a diverse company portfolio from softwood and hardwood sawmills to aggregate, mulch, and real estate. I appreciated the time their



Bill Hull leads a field trip through Hull forestland.

lumber saleswoman took to explain how the international market, especially China, has influenced the U.S. hardwood lumber market. I was fascinated by how many lumber sorts they do to meet the demands of their customers. There could have been an entire program on it."

"The second day we talked about what is going on in each of the participating states which included Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. New Hampshire



Conference attendees on the Cersosimo tour

Photos courtesy of Jasen Stock, Joan Nichols

seemed to lead the discussion on programming and education for landowners and the industry while Maine led on what they are doing to entice the next generation of loggers considering that in 20 years the industry has gone from hand felling and skidders to almost 90% mechanical. It cost close to \$100,000 to train a new operator in one of the state-of-the-art mechanical harvesters."

She continued, " Like Henry, I was especially impressed with the presentation from Maine on its program to train and educate loggers. Maine has partnered with community colleges to train students on everything from safety to marketing to maintenance to business planning to GIS/GPS to operating equipment. Currently they have enrolled students from Maine with the hope that graduates will stay in the state's forest products industry." [HM: See related update on Griffin Bovich, page 9]

"Another concern shared by all states was challenging markets and local municipalities that want to regulate forest practices. Everyone agreed that educating municipal commissions on forest practices is necessary but must be done on a continuous basis due to the turnover in volunteer-based commissions. All states shared the programs they conduct both for landowners and industry. That was very helpful in getting ideas for programs we could conduct in our state. TIMPRO CT shared information on the CT Grown program which allows CT forest products to be marketed under the CT Department of Agriculture's CT Grown program if they meet the criteria. That sparked interest. New York just received a grant to start a similar program. Vermont has been trying to get one launched for close to 15 years. Representatives from both states followed up with me to get additional information on our program."

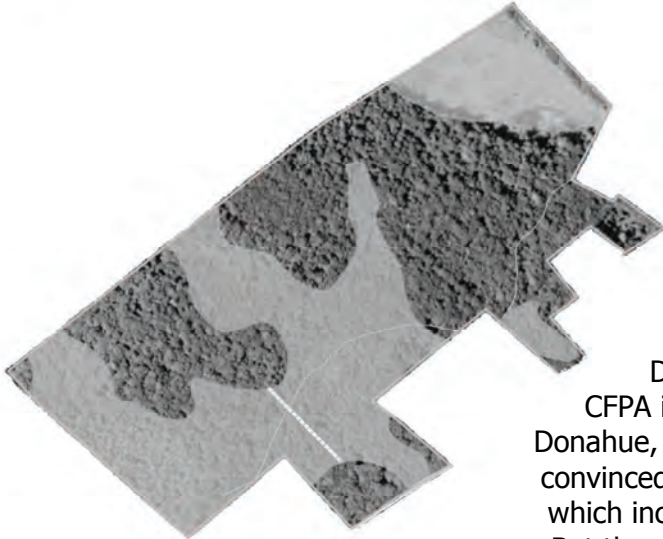
"We appreciate the support of Farm Credit East for funding meals and accommodations. It was two days of great networking and sharing of ideas and challenges with a thoughtful group who clearly are invested in the future of the forest products industry. The group was cordial and light hearted and we forged good working relationships within the region. Everyone was complaining about CT's truck weight laws. I mentioned that we had made some inroads on that issue by getting the CT statutes changed to allow trailers to increase from 80,000 to 100,00 lbs. for CT agricultural products, including forest products. I also explained that the Feds had just approved CT milk tankers to haul 91,000 lbs. and that if we could figure out how to stuff logs into milk tankers we would be OK. That got a chuckle. All in all two days well spent with a great group of men and women."



Henry Gundlach and Brennan Sheahan chat with other attendees.

Brennan reflected: "The most profound aspect of the program is the fact that most all of the representatives of the Northeast States are for the most part paid full time personnel representing the forest products industry. This allows their state organization to have a staff working every day to improve the overall impact of the industry. What a great opportunity to have. Here in CT we have a small group of volunteers working multiple jobs, then committing a small amount of their personal time to help run TIMPRO CT. It is very difficult for these few dedicated volunteers to really dig into the current issues. There just isn't enough time in their lives to allow for such a commitment. TIMPRO CT needs more members and more volunteers to really make this organization shine."

A UNIQUE LOGGING OPERATION ON A UNIQUE PROPERTY: WHITNEY FOREST



Forester Emery Gluck and TIMPRO CT Secretary Jerry Bellows agree that the Whitney Forest harvest this past summer was unique. That's because the Lebanon, CT property owned by The Connecticut Forest and Parks Association (CFPA) is itself unique. "This was the first project CFPA has done with active management of its land," Gluck recalled. "They're best known for their Blue Blaze trails but they wanted a well thought-out forest management plan."

Dorothy Duncan Whitney deeded the 84-acre parcel to CFPA in 1998. Previously, she worked with forester Dan Donahue, now with CFPA. Though she sold a few house lots, he convinced her to permanently conserve the bulk of her property, which included a landing area and a system of logging roads.

But the property hadn't been touched in quite a while. When CFPA decided it was time to act, they followed the management plan created for the property by Donahue.

That's where Gluck came in. Besides being a State Forester, he volunteers with CFPA. "This harvest was tricky because the lot is very wet except in the middle of the summer. Even a minor amount of wear on the skid trails allows water to pool. And ephemeral streams could creep onto the logging road. I convinced CFPA to invest \$6000 in improving the road. But a key precaution was using Geotextile fabric covered with crushed stone to carry the weight of the machines."

In addition to dealing with moisture, Gluck needed to promote regeneration of oak and pitch pine. "The oak forest is not reproducing itself," he explained. "So I had to mark trees to create proper clearings for regeneration, not to maximize profit." That meant taking out a lot of small brushy birch and maple he'd ordinarily not bother with in order to create open spaces for the oak. "In the past, fire and grazing created these kinds of openings and reduced overstory," Gluck said. CFPA also wanted to improve biodiversity, providing openings required for some forest birds.

One advantage for Gluck was not having to worry so much about profit. "We treated this job a little differently from others. We marked it first and then approached a logger to be paid on a per thousand board feet basis. The CFPA kept ownership of the timber and the logs were marketed to a few different mills with the help of log truck company owner Jim Passarello who sorted the logs. There's a lot of uncertainty in a logging job: Is there the volume the forester says there is? It takes the risk away from the logger."



White oak of long ago.

Finally, Gluck had a secret weapon – Jerry Bellows, who worked with his son Jeremy. “Jerry went above and beyond what the contract called for. He is a great guy.” Where the skid trails crossed brooks, Bellows used crane mats, rather like corduroy roads on steroids, to support the weight under each of the forwarder’s tires as well as to protect the middle of the trail. With his son Jeremy, Jerry trucked over his own crane mats and made sure every inch of skid trail was protected during the harvest operations.

A special challenge was protecting the trails that had already been blazed on the property. There were no trails when the operation was first planned but the work had to be postponed a year. By then, the network of trails was in place. So Jerry cleared the logging slash that fell over them. “We looked at the job a year before we started so we could get the weather right. We had to move a lot more brush than the usual logging operation,” he recalls. “The job took about 10-12 weeks. Otherwise, there was nothing unusual although I did see a huge charcoal mound.”

All the elements came together in the end. CFPA got the management plan it wanted and the woods have been opened up so that oaks and pine have a place to regenerate. Gluck was able to do a good job marketing the harvest for CFPA. Some wood went to Hull. Lower grade material went to Permatreat. In fact, the harvest went so well, Bellows will be working on a second CFPA property in Durham. Gluck sums up, “It was an educational as well as recreational opportunity.”

You can examine the logging operation yourself. The Whitney Forest is Lebanon, CT. The site contains rare pitch pine and Swamp White Oak stands.

The 1.5 mile Hibbard Trail loop, named for conservationist John Hibbard, will take you past stone walls, a Red Maple Swamp, and the edges of the recent logging operation.

The entrance is at 205 Oliver Road with parking available across the Road.

For more information, 860-346-TREE



Above: Skid trail before protection. Below: Crane mats laid down to prevent erosion.



*Aerial photo, skid trail flooding courtesy of Emery Gluck
Crane mats courtesy of Wayne Fogg, CFPA volunteer*

STATE LANDS FORESTER APPOINTED FOR PACHAUG STATE FOREST

Barely two months into his new tenure as EP Forester 1, Daniel Evans (right) says he is very happy to be at Pachaug State Forest and is quickly getting up to speed.

His hybrid position at Pachaug represents a new role for the CT-DEEP Division of Forestry as the position is partially funded by the Division of Wildlife. It is supported by U.S. Fish and Wildlife funds from the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937, a federal excise tax that apportions money to states for wildlife. The funding will enable Evans to focus on forest health, sustainability, and perpetuating regionally important, yet declining forest types. That focus, in turn, will improve habitat for native species such as the New England cottontail and for songbirds.

The State Lands Forester position will call on the many different skills Evans has developed in his professional career. Until recently he was private-sector forester and a wildlife forester for a non-profit. He combines a deep knowledge of silviculture with extensive experience in wildlife habitat management. A graduate of the University of Vermont, he spent several years in northern New England as a private forester. He has also been very active in federal and state government as well as research projects. He helped establish forest-monitoring stations along the Appalachian Trail and was on the staff of the Norcross Wildlife Foundation.

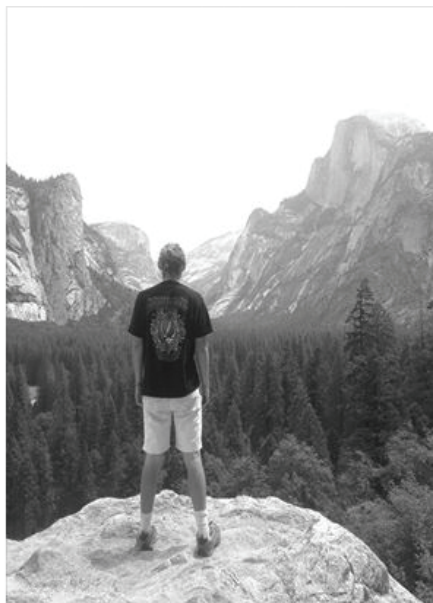
"Cottontail work is beneficial for a whole suite of songbirds," Evans explained in a phone interview. "It provides for more varied age classes such as young oak/hickory stands and improves the overall age class diversity. That work aids long range sustainability for birds such as the whippoorwill. I'm very fortunate to have an already-approved active management for the Wyassup Block, a 2000 acre area in Pachaug which supports relatively good site quality and has more red oak types."

The upcoming logging operation will produce mostly sawlogs and cordwood although pulpwood markets have risen. "I've seen some positive developments in the forest products industry," Evans concludes. "There is a vibrant market for the timber by-products of what we need to do to sustain wildlife species and regenerate important trees such as oak."



Photo courtesy of Daniel Evans

CATCHING UP WITH OUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS: GRIFFIN BOVICH, 2014



Griffin Bovich (right, in group center) spent the summer exploring Yosemite just for fun (above left). Back in class, he says, "My first semester was tough. I took a 400 Level (Senior Level) course in tree pest and disease control. We studied where they come from and how to deal with them. It was really interesting. I also took a course in surveying. This semester is a little easier. I'm learning about tree appraisal and how to evaluate woodlands." He especially enjoyed an experience between semesters when the whole class went to a Maine camp to observe winter logging operations. [HM: This is the kind of student experience our members discussed at the Northeast Regional Forestry and Landowner Association Conference.]

CATCHING UP WITH OUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS: KIMI SIKORSKI, 2013

For Kimi Sikorski, the recent school year has truly been a hands-on experience. She writes, "The past year has been filled with a lot of new and exciting experiences at Paul Smith's College, especially with the woodsmen team. I have started competing on my own in different competitions throughout the Northeast such as Fryeburg Fair in Maine, Jonny Apple Seed Festival in PA, Hudson Historical Society Lumberjack Show in New Hampshire, and several more along with several collegiate competitions with my team. This upcoming year I plan to add several more shows and hope to do even better this year than I did last year! In late spring of this year I will also be traveling to Ethiopia with my school for an ecological restoration project which I am wicked excited for!"





BITS AND CHOKERS

CHALLENGES OF EMERALD ASH BORER FIREWOOD QUARANTINE IN ILLINOIS



Illinois has lifted its quarantine against the movement of firewood.

Think that's good news? Think again. As Dr. Philip Nixon, Extension Entomologist with the University of Illinois in Urbana (left), puts it, "Emerald ash borer is becoming so widespread in Illinois that reduction of its spread through firewood restriction is no longer useful." In other words, it's the reduced supply of ash, not human measures, that's helping to end the infestation.

Dr. Nixon's statement is relevant to us in Connecticut where the infestation was detected several years after it was identified in the Midwest. Communities in the Midwest have engaged in an all-out war against the invasive pest, spending millions to remove and replace infected trees and to treat unaffected trees on public lands.

One reason quarantines aren't effective, Dr. Nixon found, is the difficulty of tracking the actual movement of potentially infested wood. "We found out in Illinois that getting a handle even on commercial firewood operations was hard. It turns out a lot of firewood was being brought here from California. Truckers would drive there with a load, deliver it, and then fill up with firewood to bring back and sell here to cover the cost of gas on the return trip. That's why USDA-APHIS got involved. Now firewood has to have a federal stamp to be legally sold." The Illinois Department of Natural Resources also has a program to monitor firewood sellers at state park campgrounds and national forests but there's more work to be done.

And quarantines can have huge gaps. In Illinois, as in Connecticut, some wood is cut here but processed out of state. Lumbering operations in southern Illinois' Shawnee National Forest rely on mills in southern Missouri for processing. Disposing of waste wood from infected ash creates still another gap. Chicago, for example, sends waste wood to eastern Iowa for processing. So, the quarantine had to extend to the Quad Cities to allow the shipping of that waste.

One question still open is whether EAB could jump to another host. So far it has shown up on the white fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus* above), a native related to ash. But that small multi-trunked tree is used mostly as an occasional ornamental in landscaping and would not be so widely available to the borer.

And even as EAB seems to wind down, there is the threat of new infestations. Dr. Nixon says, "Infected wood is getting into the country in dunnage from shipping and crating." He recalls inspectors going to a gym which had received a shipment of weights. Out in back, they found crating riddled with holes – the Asian Longhorn Beetle had hatched out. Shipments of containerized freight are another source. Officials can only inspect a small portion. With all this material being shipped around the country, Dr. Nixon predicts, "Bugs can move on it."

Photo courtesy of Dr. Philip Nixon



LOGGING FOR WILDLIFE

Logging is a crucial habitat management tool for species such as the New England cottontail. Considered a candidate for the Federal Endangered Species List back in 2006, it now benefits from the collaboration of foresters, loggers, farmers, hunters, conservationists and others determined to restore its population.

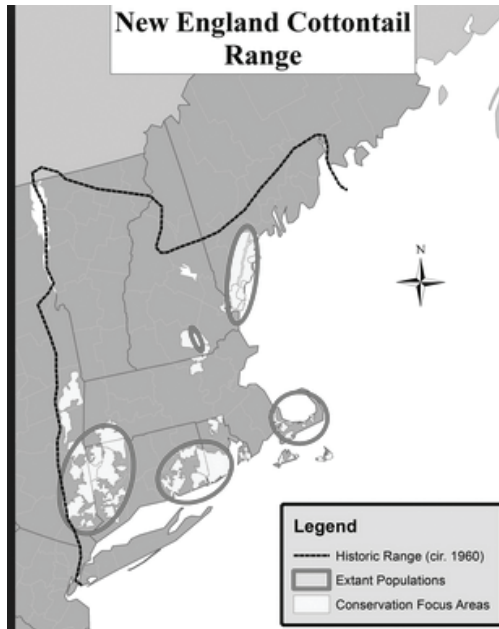
The key to the cottontail's near-extinction was the loss in the

1960's of up to 86% of the young forest habitat it prefers. Development took some but so did the maturation of forest stands to late successional stages that provide little of the food or thick cover it

needs. But this early successional habitat can be restored by carefully planned and executed logging operations.

Managing habitat for cottontail also provides a welcoming environment for other wildlife species, from songbirds to box turtles to the elfin butterfly.

To date, an estimated 700 acres of public land and 600 of private land have been enhanced in patches ranging from six to 100 acres in size. Live-trapping at Pachaug State Forest near Wyassup Lake also provided a population for captive breeding.



CAES RELEASES LATEST SURVEY OF TICK-BORNE DISEASES IN CONNECTICUT

Prevalence of Borrelia burgdorferi, Babesia microti, and Anaplasma phagocytophilum in Ixodes scapularis ticks tested at the CAES Tick Testing Laboratory, 2015

County	Number Ticks Tested	Percent (%) Positive		
		<i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>	<i>Babesia microti</i>	<i>Anaplasma phagocytophilum</i>
Fairfield	1403	29.5	11.0	5.0
New Haven	465	34.0	11.4	5.4
Hartford	162	31.5	14.2	3.1
Litchfield	182	39.0	9.9	6.6
Middlesex	79	31.6	8.9	1.3
New London	59	33.9	8.5	5.1
Tolland	41	31.7	9.8	4.9
Windham	15	33.3	0.0	0.0



PO Box 508
Oneco, CT 06373

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016

Check calendar on TIMPRO CT website for any changes.

APRIL 22, TIMPRO CT ANNUAL MEETING, POMFRET CENTER, CT

8 AM Welcome and Registration

8:50-NOON Workshop: Chainsaw Safety and Maintenance

12 Lunch (Bring your own)

1-3:30 Preventative Equipment Maintenance

4:15-6:30 Annual Meeting and Dinner

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

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**

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.