

The Cutting Edge



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REMEMBERING

SHAWN VARLEY

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

TIMPRO CT DEBUTS NEW WEBSITE

The www.timproct.org website address is the same but get ready for a whole new TIMPRO CT online home. Working with Quasar Internet Solutions, TIMPRO CT Treasurer Trish Laplatney has redesigned and updated the entire site. It is now like a newly-built house, i.e. freshly painted but not much furniture yet. We'll be posting content such as pictures from past events, notices of upcoming events, and even archived issues of *The Cutting Edge*. But we'd like more. That's where our members come in. If you're working in the woods and see something interesting, maybe take a minute to snap a picture with your cellphone and send it to Trish (canamtrish@gmail.com) or me (hallie.metzger@rcn.com). Same thing if you hear something interesting or funny or have an idea or an unusual experience. Meanwhile, take a 'tour.' It's always 'Open House'!

TIMPRO CT WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Chris Carsky, Ellington, CT

Brad Cordtsen, Ellington, CT

Ron Hunley, Schaeffer Manufacturing, Coventry, CT

Frank Lemaire, Jr, Mohawk Tree Service, West Greenwich, RI

Kevin Massey J&J Log & Lumber, Sharon, CT

Justin Sherman, Sherman Forest Products, Woodstock, CT

Donald Soucie, Jeremiah's Wood co., Foster, RI

PLANT SCIENCE DAY AT LOCKWOOD FARM

Board member Joan Nichols represented TIMPRO CT at the 107th Annual Plant Science Day on Wednesday, August 2 at Lockwood Farm in Hamden. Held by the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station, this event is a showcase for the scientific projects CAES carries out. Joan set up the exhibit and informed many visitors of our mission and activities. Commissioner Robert Klee, CT-DEEP, delivered the keynote address on "Building a Sustainable Future in an Age of Uncertainty."

Opposite page: above, Shawn's skidder; below, logging trucks in the funeral procession. Photos courtesy of Stephanie Gillotti

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.

REMEMBERING SHAWN VARLEY



In June 2016, we welcomed Shawn Varley to TIMPRO CT as a new member. He had been logging since graduation from Wamogo High School in 2003 and owned his own skidder. Working for J&J Log and Lumber Company as an independent contractor, he said he had no specific agenda and wanted first "to get an idea of what is going on in the field." But he did note that "we need more people" and that would mean doing something about the cost of equipment and insurance, "a big barrier for newcomers."

On August 4, a Friday, while at work on a site, Shawn was struck by a falling limb and died instantly. TIMPRO CT President Brennan Sheahan wrote: "On Friday afternoon we lost a fine young man who truly loved life and working in the woods. Shawn Varley was a pleasure to be around. His positive attitude, kind heart, and willingness to help out brought happiness into any situation. It is a tragedy to lose such a great guy. Shawn had recently started participating in TIMPRO activities. He was eager to help move our organization forward into the 21st century. His youthfulness at the Board meetings was welcoming and much needed. Shawn quickly made the decision to get more involved in the forest products community and decided just this last spring to become a TIMPRO Board Member. The Board welcomed Shawn, his ideas, and opinions, and we will greatly miss his presence. I am also very certain that CT's Forest Products Industry will miss seeing the results of all of Shawn's hard efforts and good quality work within Connecticut's forested landscape." In addition to his love of the woods, Shawn played the guitar and the banjo and was interested in woodworking and antiques.

He is survived by his parents, Heidi and Butch Finch of Roxbury and James Varley of Warren; his siblings, Jessica and Ryan Varley; his grandmother, Virginia Varley of Washington; his niece and nephew, Amber and Sebastian; and his loyal dog Trudy. Trudy now resides with TIMPRO CT Vice President Henry Gundlach

Contributions may be made in Shawn's memory to St. Jude's Hospital (www.stjude.org) or to a scholarship fund for his nephew Sebastian Varley through Union Savings Bank, 26 North St, Roxbury, CT 06783 . TIMPRO CT will donate \$1000 to the scholarship for Sebastian.



MEET OUR 2017 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Luc M. Poirier, a graduate of Edwin O. Smith High School in Storrs, will continue his education at Eastern Connecticut State University where he will study Environmental Earth Science.

Luc has been interested in this field throughout high school, especially as a member of his FFA chapter. He especially enjoyed the CDE competitions although it wasn't always easy. He recalls one timber cruising event: "It was terrible weather – pouring rain!" He also played on the school's Varsity tennis team and with the Badminton Club.

Despite these demands, Luc participated in state and national FFA and CDE events. "In Junior Year, I competed with an FFA team in a statewide Forestry CDE. Our team came in first and I was first in the state. At the national competition in Indianapolis, our team placed Gold and I was a Gold medalist." His team also came in first this past spring in a national Natural Resources competition. In October, his team will go to Indianapolis again even though he will be in college. "We couldn't meet this summer but hope to practice before then," he said. "This round will probably be a lot of mammal and amphibian ID. It's a lot more than simply knowing Connecticut fauna. There will also be a GPS practicum. That will be new to us."



In addition to school and sports, Luc worked at Cedar Lodge Tree Farm helping customers pick out trees, cutting and wrapping them, and helping load them on cars for the trip home. All this has often made for a grueling schedule. "There were times I'd go straight from badminton to tennis to work all on the same day," he recalled. He has also worked at the UConn Bookstore and just recently transferred to the bookstore at Eastern Connecticut State University. This summer he interned with R.S.C.C. Wire and Cable helping implement safety regulations.

Photography is a special interest. (see photo left) He did a senior project on the history of photography and enjoys taking pictures with his father's 1980's 35 mm film camera. He finds this a challenge compared to digital cameras: "You have to be really selective because you don't have a lot of storage." He sees photography as a hobby with potential he could incorporate into his future work, documenting information and issues.

Busy as he is, Luc always has time for his dog Pumpkin. "On my birthday eight years ago, my parents said we were going out to get pumpkins," he explained. "And they surprised me with a yellow lab puppy. So, of

course, I named him 'Pumpkin'."

Luc's broad range of academic and practical accomplishments will serve him well in the future. Thinking of becoming an environmental lawyer or climate change analyst, he wrote in his scholarship application, "I see myself in a position where I can guide and inspire others." His record so far shows he is already a success.



Alexandra Winans, a graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School, will study Marine Biology at the University of New Haven.

Alexandra, known as "Ally," admits marine biology isn't an obvious choice. "I'm not really near the ocean but I took a half-year class in marine biology and I knew this was what I really wanted to do. There was just something about it. I'm used to fresh water but the ocean is so much bigger," she said.

Her interest in the field led her to a day-long program in the field at the University of New Haven. "We went out on a boat and drew water samples in Long Island Sound. It was so hands on," she recalled. Her program as a freshman will be equally hands on: "We will go out every Friday and take samples. We'll have sieve nets and do other scientific projects."

Through school, Ally's family hosted a German exchange student. "It was one of the best experiences ever," she said. "Max came over from a city environment, Hamburg, so this was different. It was fun to show him around. I visited him in his home for 2 weeks as part of the program." Empowering Young Women was an additional activity. "A small group of girls could get together in a safe space and

talk about anything," Ally explained. "We got to hear other people's opinions and went to conferences. It was really nice because I learned a lot."

Art is important to Ally. She finds it relaxing to paint in acrylics and to arrange flowers. In fact, she has competed in flower arranging. "I had to take a floral class in school to do it," she explained. "One part was making corsages, another was window displays, a third was flower ID. I made corsages for our group competition. We came in third."

In her free time, Ally plays the guitar and looks after her pets: five cats (Oreo, Willy, Cookie, Boots, and Coda); a turtle named Modo; a rabbit named Delilah; and a dog, Otis, who is kind of a mutt but lovable. She credits her family for being "super supportive" through all her activities and endeavors.

In her recommendation, Housatonic faculty member Letitia Garcia-Tripp said it best: "Ally is an extremely kind, warm, and intelligent young woman. Her hard work and determination, along with her passion for the environment and the ocean will lend themselves well as she pursues her degree in the sciences. Her ability to work with and lead others will also be invaluable resources as she moves on to the next chapters of her life."



CONNECTICUT GROWN KEEPS ON GROWING!

Doug Emmerthal remembers the day, December 29, 2010, the Connecticut Grown Forest Products program was launched. "The inaugural was well-attended. People were really excited about a marketing tool to promote locally-grown products." As Program Manager, Private & Municipal Lands, Forest Practices Act, in the Division of Forestry, Bureau of Natural Resources, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Emmerthal plays a key role in overseeing the program.

The original program, inaugurated in 1986, promoted edibles, including maple syrup. Christmas trees were the only non-edible product covered even though, as Emmerthal pointed out, "Connecticut statutes define Forestry as Agriculture." In the years since, however, the Connecticut Grown program has expanded to cover wood products. And, Emmerthal noted, "The products made from wood are endless."

TIMPRO CT was active in this expansion of the program and we were successful because we helped change public perceptions of our industry. "The expansion is a recognition of good work that's already being done," Emmerthal acknowledged. In fact, he added, "It's understated in Connecticut how much good is being done. Any positive reflection on logging is good. I don't think there's enough. It's a reinforcement."

This past summer a seasonal worker was able to construct an interactive map to help consumers find Connecticut Grown Forest Products. The May/June issue of *Connecticut Woodlands* featured an article by Lisa Massicotte, a seasonal worker at the DEEP Wildlife Division, about the new Connecticut Grown interactive map and the goals of the program.

In "Find CT Grown Forest Products with New Interactive Map", Massicotte noted that Connecticut is now 60% forested and explained the many benefits of buying products from locally sourced wood:

"By purchasing Connecticut Grown Forest Products, you can make a statement in support of the state's forests, including those owned by private woodland owners. The economic value of products from these local woodlands encourages landowners and communities to keep their 'woods' and not convert the land to other uses."

Supporting local sourcing of wood products through Connecticut Grown, Massicotte explained, also enables landowners and managers to promote healthy, vigorous forest stands and to provide a range of habitats that contribute to biological diversity while also meeting the recreational demands of a growing population.

Emmerthal would like to do even more to promote Connecticut Grown. He hopes in the future to



develop an interactive phone app. "The public can access the Connecticut Grown Forest Products website ct.gov/deep/CTGrownForestProducers or through the Department of Agriculture website. The Department of Agriculture has been a strong supporter," he added. But Emmerthal sees the real boost to the program coming from outside. "The Division of Forestry is limited in what we can do because we're short-staffed. But we have and will continue to reach out to the public about Connecticut Grown through the media. Industry needs to step in as well. One of the biggest things is self-promotion in a positive way."



The opening ceremony in 2010. Note Joan Nichols, fifth from the left. Photo courtesy of Doug Emmerthal

Referring to the plaque on Stephen Strong's building for the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station at Lockwood Farm, he added, "Boasting is good." In addition, he said, "People are willing to pay a little more for something local and they're willing to pay a lot more for something with a story. The story brings people into the fold." Emmerthal concluded, "It might not work in wood you're exporting but it does educate people about sustainability. And it's a great bridge to start a conversation about resources."

INITIAL 2017 MAPLE SYRUP DATA AVAILABLE

The USDA has issued initial data on the 2017 maple syrup season. Overall, US maple syrup production totaled 4.27 million gallons, up 2% from the previous year. The number of taps is estimated at 13.3 million, up 6% from the 2016 total. But yield per tap is estimated at 0.320 gallons, down 4% from the previous season. Producers started earlier this season due to warmer than normal temperatures with Minnesota beginning on February 12. On average, the season lasted 37 days, compared with 33 days in 2016. Mark Harran, of the Connecticut Maple Producers Association, reports, "Overall, the 2017 season was below average due primarily to poor weather conditions. Unseasonably warm weather in February, low sugar content throughout the rest of the season, and an early spring warm-up were the key depressants. Producers in vacuum-assisted tubing did much better than those using buckets."

Maple Syrup Season – States and United States: 2015-2017

State	Date season opened ¹			Date season closed ²			Average season length ³		
	2015 (date)	2016 (date)	2017 (date)	2015 (date)	2016 (date)	2017 (date)	2015 (days)	2016 (days)	2017 (days)
Connecticut	Feb 1	Jan 15	Jan 20	Apr 20	Apr 25	Apr 25	27	34	42
Indiana ⁴	(NA)	Jan 19	Jan 1	(NA)	Mar 28	Apr 2	(NA)	24	31
Maine	Feb 9	Jan 9	Jan 16	May 8	May 13	May 26	27	43	41
Massachusetts	Mar 14	Jan 13	Jan 10	Apr 11	Apr 20	Apr 13	28	32	42
Michigan	Mar 1	Feb 1	Jan 26	Apr 27	May 29	Apr 20	26	30	32
Minnesota ⁴	(NA)	Feb 15	Feb 12	(NA)	Apr 24	Apr 28	(NA)	31	30
New Hampshire	Mar 18	Jan 27	Jan 7	Apr 13	Apr 30	Apr 22	26	38	42
New York	Jan 12	Jan 7	Jan 1	May 16	May 13	May 4	26	36	43
Ohio	Jan 19	Jan 25	Jan 1	Apr 23	Apr 5	Apr 6	27	27	33
Pennsylvania	Jan 15	Jan 1	Jan 2	Apr 30	Apr 9	Apr 17	28	31	39
Vermont	Jan 1	Jan 1	Jan 1	May 5	May 1	May 14	26	44	46
West Virginia ⁴	(NA)	Jan 1	Jan 5	(NA)	Apr 2	Apr 10	(NA)	32	32
Wisconsin	Feb 26	Feb 7	Feb 6	Apr 15	Apr 22	Apr 30	23	29	29
United States	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	26	33	37

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Approximately the first day that sap was collected.

² Approximately the last day that sap was collected.

³ The average number of days that sap was collected.

⁴ Estimates began in 2016.



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JUNE 2 WORKSHOP DRAWS CROWD

By Brennan Sheahan

TIMPRO staff did not anticipate how many forest practitioners would be interested in this workshop. We welcomed an overflow crowd of 80 to the first venue, CT Mulch Distributors. Kurt Lindeland, owner, and Tina Provencher, logistics coordinator of CT Mulch, greeted us. Kurt reviewed the company's history, his goals for the future, and the ever-changing market trends of the pulpwood industry. He spoke about the frustrations caused by the Maine pulpwood downturn and was candid about the impact this could have on his business. He emphasized the need for new markets and other outlets for hardwood pulp chips. He ended on a hopeful note anticipating a strong and vigorous mulch season that would have his company operating at full capacity within the next week or two.

Tina then introduced herself to all the attendees. For most of us this was our first face-to-face meeting with the woman who is the 'voice' on the phone when we order a pulp-

wood pickup from any of our logging jobs. Tina thanked everyone for their patience and let everyone know that she works hard to get the job done in a timely manner. After introductions, Kurt fired up the chip plant and we all got to see the operation in action. Even at less than full throttle, the chip facility gobbled up hemlock pulp at lightning speed. This operation was impressive.

Next we all jumped into our pickups trucks and headed over to CT Forest Products, the 2nd division of this 100-acre forest products operation. Kurt gave us a brief rundown of the volumes of finished material being moved out of this facility daily. We watched the operation run for a good 15 minutes. C.B.I. Grinders were churning away, tub grinders were grinding up chunky material, D8 dozers were pushing material up into massive piles and numerous pay loaders were working hard handling yards and yards of material. Trucks were coming and going in all different directions. What a fuel bill!! This place was really hopping and fun to watch. We thanked Kurt for inviting us over and we look forward to seeing his operation make a big impact within the forest product industry of CT and beyond.

Our well-trained attendees then jumped back into their vehicles and drove 3 miles up the street to our last stop of the day, Farm Credit East of East Windsor. Jason Hoagland, VP Loan Officer/Assistant Branch Manager, and his staff gave a great presentation on the financials of the forest products industry. We discussed borrowing money for capital improvements, leasing vs. purchase, and the importance of a good credit



score.

Farm Credit East went into the importance of keeping great records for your business and really understanding your profits and losses. The knowledgeable staff detailed why it is so important to know your true costs regarding the production of sawlogs and pulpwood. Farm Credit East is extremely knowledgeable about the forest products industry and is very eager to help individuals grow their business. The result was an educational and revealing presentation. To finish off the day, Farm Credit East provided everyone with a tasty lunch from Panera.

The day was a huge success. The folks attending all had great feedback and were very appreciative of the information they gained. We will have to do this again in the near future.



Top: A demonstration at the morning workshop; Bottom: The presentation at Farm Credit East. Photos courtesy of Brennan Sheahan



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TIMPRO WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS LUBRICATION FUNDAMENTALS

By Brennan Sheahan



Ron Hunley, CT Sales Rep, (left) demonstrated Schaeffer Lubricating Oil to Hiram Rosenberg during the April 29 Annual Meeting at Lockwood Farm. Photo courtesy of Hallie Metzger

Our August workshop in conjunction with Schaeffer Manufacturing Company put together a lubrication fundamentals program for over 25 forest practitioners at the CT Wildlife Sessions Woods building, in Burlington. Jim Carroll, V.P. of Technical Services for Schaeffer Mfg., presented the first part of the program. His extensive knowledge of engine oil, hydraulic oil, and grease was very informative and he updated us on the ever-changing world of “oils” as the political climate of our nation demands lower carbon dioxide emissions and better fuel economy. Every new regulation mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency creates a very challenging situation for all oil manufactures, he explained. Schaeffer has stepped up to the challenge and created products that meet and exceed all the parameters required and work extremely well under the harsh environment in which forestry equipment operates. Great information and great job presenting!

After lunch from Panera provided by Schaeffer Mfg., we had a break to catch up with old acquaintances and talk shop (logging) regarding the current market trends and the very wet summer that we all faced.

The program concluded with a product demonstration by two Schaeffer Sales Representatives. Ron Hunley and Louie Hooks did a great job showing the audience just how excellent a product line Schaeffer carries. No matter how hard an audience member tried to “jam up” one of Schaeffer’s oil based products, they were not successful. (I saw quite a few very red faces due to the amount of physical force applied to the testing machine). It was fun to watch and impressive to see just how well these products performed. Ron Hunley, CT Sales Rep, is interested in helping CT’s forest products industry save time and money and increase profitability by using high quality oil based products. Ron’s contact information is rhunley35@gmail.com and cell phone (860) 604-8198.

TIMPRO would like to thank Colonel James Carroll for flying in from Missouri to share his knowledge with us. We would also like to offer our sincere gratitude to Colonel Carroll for his highly decorated service in the Army. Colonel Carroll served in Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm, the Iraq War of 2003, and the Afghanistan conflicts. His military decorations and awards include a Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars, three Meritorious Service Medals, and a Combat Action Badge.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2017

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:

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Articles, ideas, pictures
you'd like to see?
hallie.metzger@rcn.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS

www.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.