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ASSOCIATION, INC.

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ISSUE 27

The Cutting Edge →



Inside This Issue

P.2-3, TIMPRO CT News: Issues Facing Forestry Today; Annual Meeting; Ag Day in Hartford; Letter to Commissioner Klee

P. 4, Issue: State Support

P. 5, Issue: Recruitment

P. 6, Issue: New Wood Products

P. 7, Issue: Bio-Security

P. 8-9, Issue: A Global View; More on Recruitment

P. 10, Issue: Still More on Recruitment; A man walks into a forest.....

P. 11, Top dog/Underdog

P. 12, Calendar

Cover art by Deborah Roach

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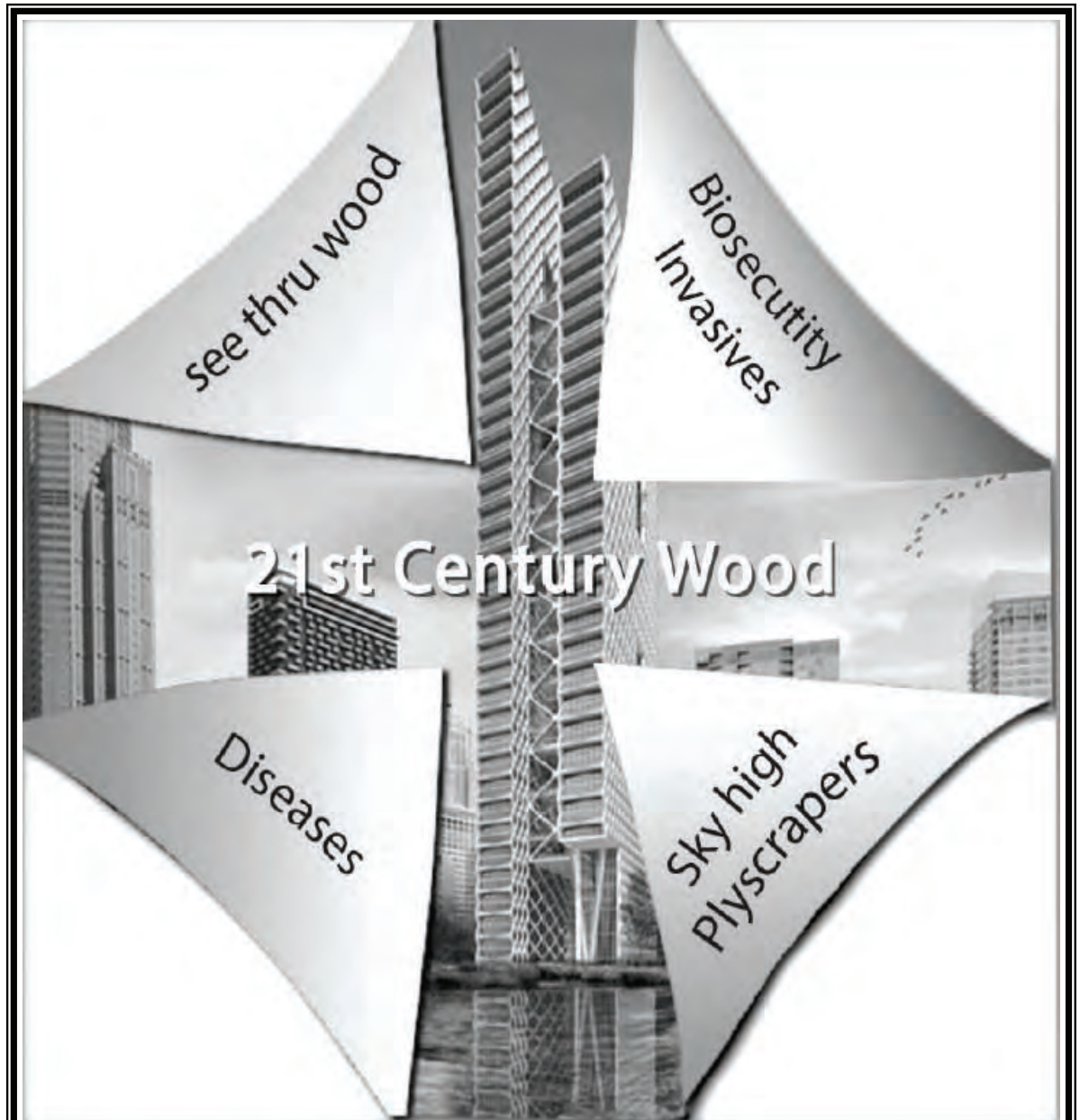
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The Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association, Inc. (TIMPRO CT) is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)6 non-profit corporation. Our mission is to enhance the image and understanding of the forest products industry throughout the state through public outreach programs, education, and a commitment to professionalism among its members.

TIMPRO CT NEWS

What's ahead for wood in this 21st century? In this newsletter we consider some unlikely new wood-based products as well as the obstacles that stand in their way. Here are a few topics covered in this edition of *The Cutting Edge*.

- ◆ Bio-security against invasives and disease
- ◆ Lack of state support and funding for forestry
- ◆ Need to recruit new people into the field, with updates on our scholarship winners
- ◆ Need to promote new uses for wood
- ◆ Global Issues in certification and sustainability

CT DEEP Deputy Commissioner Susan Whelan responded to TIMPRO CT Vice President Henry Gundlach's letter to Commissioner Klee (p.3) concerning the industry slot on the Forest Practices Advisory Board. She said that legislation is being proposed to clarify appointing authority to the Board. In the meantime, she urged TIMPRO members to attend Board meetings and speak up even if we cannot vote. Hallie Metzger, Editor

SAVE THE DATE

TIMPRO CT Annual meeting and CEU Program

Saturday April 29th, 2017

Lockwood Pavilion, Lockwood Farm

CT Agriculture Experiment Station

890 Evergreen Avenue Hamden, CT

CEU program: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm followed by
TIMPRO CT Annual Meeting and dinner

Additional details and CEUs to follow:

- ◆ Update on status of CT DEEP Forestry staffing, programs, certification program, and bats: Chris Martin, CT DEEP
- ◆ Update on EAB and Gypsy moth: Eric Chamberlain, USDA APHIS, and Dr. Jeff Ward, CAES
- ◆ Timber frame construction: Use of native timber from standing tree to finished product: Steve Strong, Strong Timber Framers
- ◆ Attendee roundtable: "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly". Improving the public perception of logging

Check e-mails and mailboxes for program registration and additional details.



Brennan Sheahan and Joan Nichols represented TIMPRO CT at Ag Days in Hartford on March 17 and met with Governor Malloy (left) and Commissioner Revczky (right). Photos courtesy of Joan Nichols.



Dear Commissioner Klee:

I am writing you today on behalf of the 90 members of our organization that represent the forest products industry here within the State of CT. We are a dedicated, professional and a very productive industry generating over \$2.1 billion of sales annually within the State of CT. Our industry consists of over 8200 CT based workers contributing daily to the CT State workforce.

Our organization has recently become aware of the faulty appointment of a member to the Forest Practices Advisory Board. This particular appointment slot is the one and only slot designated to a representative from within our industry. As a result, our representation has been completely ignored and shut out from this board.

The "Forest Practices Act" was established in 1991 to regulate the forest products industry. At the same time, the Forest Practices Advisory Board was established to review these regulations and determine their impact on the licensed forest practitioners and the forest products industry. This "Board" consists of 9 appointed members from various sectors of life within our State. Of all the appointed members, one slot was designated as a "Representative of the Forest Products Industry". This is a crucial appointment to be filled by a member within our industry considering the entire focus of the "Forest Practices Act" is to regulate our industry. It only makes perfect sense that we would want someone from our industry to sit on this board and make sure that decisions aren't made that would negatively impact our way of life. Up until recently this position was filled by Michael Bartlett of Hull Forest Products, Inc. and he did a great job keeping a look out for policies that would negatively impact our industry. Mr. Bartlett stepped down from this appointment at the end of 2015. This is where the problem begins. A qualified applicant submitted his request to fill this position to the CT House Majority Leader, Joe Aresimowicz. To much dismay and disbelief the six term Representative decided that this appointment shall be granted to an individual that has NO experience or knowledge of the forest products industry. Mr. Aresimowicz gave the appointment to a hometown acquaintance and wetlands commissioner from Berlin. As a result the Forest Practices Advisory Board has NO REPRESENTATION from the forest products industry sitting on the board looking out for our best interests. CT TIMPRO finds this to be very troubling and inexcusable.

CT TIMPRO would like you to take a look at this appointment and explain to us how this has happened. Our membership would like to know that their interests are being represented on this "Board". Please take the time to dig into this issue deeper and let us know how this appointment can be reversed and given to a rightful candidate from within our industry.

Sincerely,

Henry Gundlach – Vice President & Forester
Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association

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.

ISSUE: STATE SUPPORT FOR FORESTRY AND WOOD PRODUCTS

Christopher Martin, Director/State Forester of the CT DEEP Division of Forestry, recently spoke to The Cutting Edge about issues important to TIMPRO members.

There has been a steep rise in PA 490 valuations for the purpose of town-wide property tax revaluations. Beginning after October 1, 2015, PA 490 forestland will be valued at \$240/acre – up from the 2010 valuation of \$130/acre. “There are three main reasons for this steep increase,” Martin explained. “First there’s been an increase in the frequency of USDA inventories from once every 10 years to once every 3. Plus, everything is online and more accessible. Next, small sawtimber that wasn’t harvested jumped a category to more valuable large sawtimber. Standing tree volume in Connecticut almost doubled since 1998, according to the previous most recent USDA Forest Service inventory and analysis data. Third, the capitalization rate from Farm State East changed. With little borrowing activity in Connecticut, the rate dropped from 12.5% in 2010 to 7% in 2015. Since this rate is the denominator for the final calculation, it has a big impact on PA 490 numbers.

“Bottom line,” Martin summed, “we’re harvesting much less than is growing in Connecticut. Trees are getting bigger and bigger.” He noted a 2008 study of sustainability by Yale University requested by state legislator Jean McCarthy. “The numbers showed we’re only cutting 1/3 of the sustained yield on DEEP

Parcels and acres classified as PA490 land
(as of December 13, 2016 with 96% of towns reporting)

490 Classification	Number of Parcels	Number of Acres
Farm	12,814	816,655
Forest	10,691	500,894
Open Space	12,936	180,374
10 Mill	93	9,373
TOTAL	36,534	1,507,297

Chart courtesy CT DEEP website

managed public forests. We could cut triple the amount but we don’t have the staff,” he said, although the markets are good. “When we put out sales, we get good bids and fairly good prices. Low value stuff ebbs and flows. Softwood mostly goes out of state. We’ve updated the Connecticut-grown website with interactive maps showing location and products of certified CT grown forest products.”

As for staffing, Jennifer Hockla is retiring in April but no one is being hired. The remaining members of

the staff will be covering her duties. “We’re at the critical point of failure when we only have one person covering a program. We continue to do less with less,” Martin said. “We have to cut back across the board. Since 2014, central Connecticut has not had a service forester and western Connecticut has not had a fire control officer.”

Finally, we spoke about possible revisions of the Forest Practices Act. One proposal will include a grace period for renewing a license. Another deals with appointing authority for vacancies in the Forest Practices Board. At present there is no one from the forest products industry on it. Money is tight for the State of Connecticut so these issues won’t be easily resolved. But TIMPRO CT members can speak to their legislators and to Commissioner Klee.

ISSUE: RECRUITING NEW PEOPLE INTO THE FIELD

TIMPRO CT actively recruits new people into our field by giving scholarships to promising high school graduates and by reaching out individually and encouraging young people to give it a try.



Photos this page courtesy of Steve Massey and Kimi Sekorski

Back when he was a student at Housatonic Valley High School, **Kevin Massey** (left) wasn't sure exactly what he wanted to do. But he knew he wanted to be outdoors. "I did nursery landscaping through the agricultural program and worked at Sharon Audubon," he recalled. "Then I realized I wanted to go into the field more professionally. I made some contacts at J&J Log and Lumber Corporation through a friend and talked to the head forester there. He saw my interest and told me to call when I graduated. I made that call the day after graduation."

Once at J&J, Kevin got in touch with Henry Gundlach for hands-on training. "Henry taught me about hand cutting, skidding, bucking, measurements – just about anything possible. He's a really good guy and knows his stuff." Kevin was a ready pupil thanks to skills he learned through his family. In the 50's and 60's, Kevin's grandfather had a chain saw and small engine shop. "My dad learned from him and I learned from Dad," said Kevin. At Housatonic he was in charge of rebuilding a 1959 B Mack Truck. On weekends he is a member of a pit crew for a friend who does dirt-track racing.

Now operating the feller buncher, Kevin is already thinking ahead to getting his supervisor's license. "In Connecticut, that means I can cut timber on my own. I can also have four people working under me. I can

mark out skid trails and mark timber." Will that keep him even more busy than he is now? Not to worry: "I'm a workaholic," says Kevin.

Anna Measick, 2016 TIMPRO CT Scholarship winner, is looking back on a successful first semester at the University of Rhode Island. With her interest in biodiversity, climate change, and land and water conservation growing, she has switched her major to Environmental and Natural Resource Economics. Her favorite course so far has been Global Responsibilities and Water Resources. A related course project was surveying invasive plant species on the Saugatucket River close to campus. Another project was the study of phytoplankton bloom of *Pseudo-nitzschia* in Narragansett Bay. From October to December she had an internship with Save the Bay in Providence. This gave her an opportunity to teach 3-5th grade elementary school students about Narragansett Bay. She enjoyed this so much that she has a new future perspective: "I have looked into minoring in education which will allow me to get teaching experience." She doesn't know what grades she'd like to teach but doesn't have to decide until the graduate level. In her free time, Anna played intramural soccer and is now the official photographer of the University newspaper, "The Good Five Cent Cigar."



Kimi Sekorski (above), 2013 TIMPRO CT Scholarship winner, one of many young people TIMPRO CT has encouraged, is a senior this year. She reports that her women's woodsmen team had an undefeated season. Looking ahead, she has completed her application to get a

ISSUE: NEW WOOD PRODUCTS

See-through wood for windows? Matt Smith reports in *en-gadget* that University of Maryland researchers used a two-stage process to remove color and chemicals from a block of wood leaving it impressively see-through. The result is also both stronger and more insulating than glass, with better biodegradability than plastic. "We were very surprised by how transparent it could go," said Liangbing Hu, who wrote about the project in *Advanced Materials*. Using similar techniques, Swedish researchers have also been able to clear out visible pulp, replacing it with a transparent polymer.

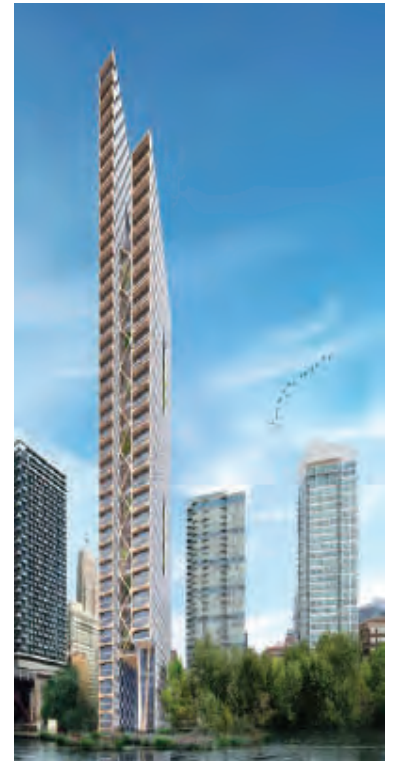


Sky high wood? Plyscrapers are actually being built, thanks to the improved composites that are being developed. The proposed spire, (below) featured on our newsletter cover, goes beyond the use of composites. Diagonals along the tower's broad faces are linked by internal cross bracing at the edges of a large, central atrium. The braces create an interconnected system allowing the external diagonals to work together to resist the lateral loads that dominate the structural design of very tall buildings.

However, you're unlikely to see this River Beech tower as envisioned for a development along the Chicago River. That's because Chicago has banned wood con-

struction ever since The Great Fire of 1871. In fact, though, the metal melting from cast-iron storefronts was far more deadly than burning wooden structures.

Another obstacle to innovative uses of wood is the PR offensive being mounted by the cement industry. Eric A Johnson reports (*The Northern Logger*, December 2016) that the concrete industry, threatened by the prospect of plyscrapers, has developed a five-year \$20,000,000 campaign to promote cement. And not content to tout the benefits of cement, the campaign will cast "doubt on the benefits and safety of wood products, especially in taller and taller buildings." Responding will be difficult without equally deep pockets. For, as Johnson points out, the Hardwood Checkoff, which would have provided marketing funds, failed.



ISSUE: BIO-SECURITY

Will DNA information help us combat ash dieback? The British certainly hope so as they have watched Danish trees succumb to the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* and found it in England in October 2012. So far, DNA sequencing shows that United Kingdom trees have some unique genetic resistance not found in Danish ash. Dr. Jeffrey Ward, Chief Scientist, Department of Forestry & Horticulture at the Connecticut Agricultural Station, hailed this as a "good first step." "Now," he commented, "they need to sequence Asian species to identify the gene(s) that confer resistance and possibly use CrispR to modify non-resistant native species." While the DNA breakthrough is possible good news, the British, fearful that the Emerald Ash Borer could gain a foothold, are calling for bio-security programs to protect the island's flora and fauna.

On this side of the Atlantic, New York is now combating the fast-spreading deadly Oak Wilt Disease caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*. As with the Emerald Ash Borer, the state issued emergency orders in 2013 and extended them in 2016, forbidding the movement of contaminated wood in or out of quarantined areas without taking precautions, i.e. chipping the wood to less than 1 inch in two dimensions.

But New York, like the UK, is looking at the larger challenge of bio-security. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has announced a \$2,000,000 grant for groups and institutions to develop strategies to control invasive species. The state spent \$12,000,000 in 2016 controlling such pests – a doubling of the expenditure from 2015. While foolproof barriers are virtually impossible given the volume of trade and traffic, Governor Cuomo is committed to doing more. "As a global hub for international trade and travel," he said, "New York is on the front lines of protecting our nation."

It's too late to close the door on the gypsy moth. But Dr. Kirby C Stafford III, Department of Entomology at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, has issued a Fact Sheet outlining the past history of infestations and advising preventive measures for 2017. A 2015 aerial survey showed about 180,000 acres impacted; in 2016 the figure was over 200,000 with more severe defoliation although well below the nearly 800,000 acres impacted in the 1970s and 1980s. While healthy trees can withstand one or two defoliations, the Fact Sheet lists control measures for those who want to treat for gypsy moth rather than wait and see how effective the fungus *E. maimaiga* and other natural enemies prove, especially as the fungus is highly weather dependent and was impeded by drought last summer. One option is mechanical: to scrape, remove, and destroy egg masses although many will be too high to reach. Scraped masses must be drowned in soapy water. Trees can also be fitted with burlap refuge/barrier bands that trap the caterpillars climbing back up the tree at night after spending the day hiding in niches along the ground. The Fact Sheet also lists all chemical treatments with guidelines on how and when to use them.

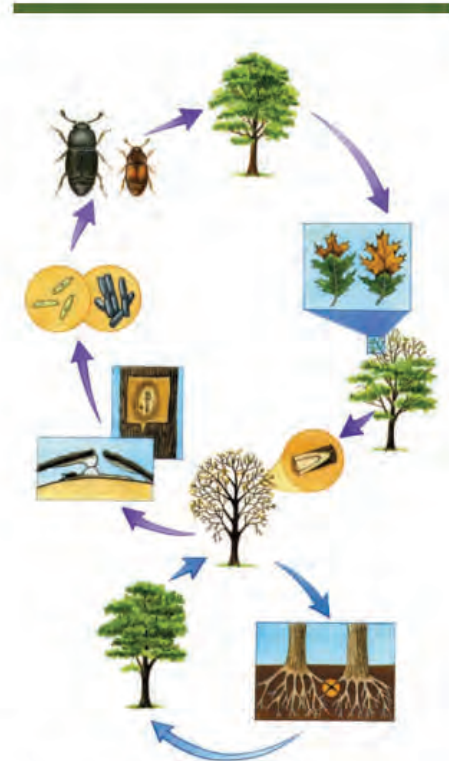


Figure 3.—The disease cycle of oak wilt.



BITS AND CHOKERS

ISSUE: A GLOBAL VIEW



Visiting a white pine mill at the Value Added Center, JD Irving, LTD, Dixfield, Maine, Lloyd Irland commented, "Love the smell of sawdust!" (Photo courtesy of Lloyd Irland)

"I'm often called Dr. Doom," says Lloyd Irland, (left) as we begin a phone interview. President of the Irland Group and onetime Senior Research Scientist at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, he sees an ongoing threat to our hardwood products industry in failed global forest policy as well as a lack of policies in the US. It is from overcutting and illegal logging in tropical forests. "I have watched barges in Shanghai carrying timber that was surely illegally harvested."

"It's impossible to police. The paper work supposedly certifying legal harvesting often means nothing. It's a many headed hydra." Irland said. The situation is even worse, he said, in African nations such as the Congo, where contracts go to European companies who ship the cut timber down the river and around the world to China. Lack of certification and sustainability policies give a major advantage to Asian and African countries that operate with minimal, if any oversight.

Irland described calling several retailers and asking to speak to whoever oversees sustainability. "Most of the receptionists had no idea what I was talking about. The retailers barely mention it on their websites. So far, Ikea is the only retailer with a decent sustainability policy." He quotes the Transparency International Corruptions Perceptions Index of 2005 report that nearly half of the world's forests are in countries with rampant corruption. So furniture manufacture has moved overseas to countries with little accountability and low wages. Some 30% of the US furniture sales come from China. As a result, American manufacturers have to deal with the Chinese to stay solvent. Furthermore, China is moving into higher end products, said Irland: "Major retailers such as Ethan Allen are now offering furniture manufactured in Asia. And the quality is rising!"

But Irland doesn't blame all the sector's ills on foreign competition. The whole mentality of the sector has to change. In an article for *Bangor Daily News* (Feb. 7, 2017), he cautioned wood products manufacturers not to count on protection from imports to help them survive. He also warned against hoping that new technologies will shift the balance in our favor. Nor will tax breaks or growth in the national economy ease pressures on our sector.

Rather than looking to robot-driven trucks and such, he advocates looking for young people interested in manufacturing. Citing all the young people entering the field of craft breweries as an example, he calls for the promotion of more small businesses. Unafraid to look far ahead, in 2014 Irland worked with another consultant, Eric Kingsley, to craft a "Vision for New England's Wood Based Industries in 2060." In it, he acknowledges all the obstacles facing the wood products industry but affirms the region's many advantages such as access to local markets and a skilled labor force. These assets can be leveraged by the right policies including better training for entrepreneurs, promotion of locally sourced wood products, and programs that maintain the region's forests as working forests.

In other words, what we need to be doing, instead of swinging for the bleachers, is trying to hit a lot of singles, i.e. start and grow small firms; some of them will grow and become important employers. Irland concludes, "The critical asset is people, not trees."

For more information and literature, follow Lloyd Irland's Tweets @RingBreaker and visit his website: <http://www.irlandgroup.com/>

MORE ON RECRUITMENT

Mary Reilly, 2016 TIMPRO CT scholarship winner (far right), has enjoyed her first semester at Montana State University. And her interest in law enforcement has led to a new extra-curricular activity. She writes, "I started doing Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu after the instructor and I talked about my interest in the law enforcement side of Fish and Wildlife Management. I have also met and talked with a lot of local people in the wildlife field. I am hoping to go on a 'ride-along' with one of the Bozeman Wardens this semester." She and her friends have also found time to do some hiking. "We found a couple of lakes along the trail and tried to determine what animal made the different tracks. It was a lot of fun!"

Mary Reilly, far right, enjoys hiking to snow-clad mountains in Montana. Her location offers unique opportunities to explore the magnificent natural terrain of our Western states. Photo courtesy of Mary Reilly.





Photo courtesy of Christian Allyn.

STILL MORE ON RECRUITMENT

Christian Allyn, 2013 TIMPRO CT scholarship winner, (left) is now a Senior Horticulture and Resource Economics Double Major at UConn. In January 2016 he was one of 15 selected for the yearlong Leadership Legacy Experience. The program guides students through experiences such as having dinner with *New York Times* columnist David Brooks. Also, beginning in 2016 Allyn launched his own business, Invasive Plant Solutions, which specializes in invasive plant removal services for property owners. He was awarded a \$4,000 IDEA Grant from the University towards his project. His business was also selected to participate in the Innovation Quest IQbator business-training course, a UConn Business School program which helps build 10 selected start-up companies annually. Christian is President of UConn's Horti-

culture Club and represents the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources as a Senator of the Undergraduate Student Government. But his hometown of North Canaan is never far from Allyn's focus. Continuing to serve the town on the Housatonic River Commission, he was recently appointed to the town's newly formed Economic Development Commission to coordinate with the State Office of Tourism. He was also asked to run for selectman in the upcoming 2017 municipal election cycle.

A man walks into a forest and....

It's been almost 70 years since Aldo Leopold published *A Sand County Almanac*, his reflections on the natural environment and his experience restoring a degraded 80-acre property in central Wisconsin. Leopold, born in 1887, was a scientist/forester/conservationist who emphasized the importance of biodiversity and helped establish wildlife management as a science. At the US Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, WI from 1924 to 1933, he was appointed Professor of Game Management at University of Wisconsin—Madison campus where annual commemoration of his life and work began.

Aldo Leopold Month in March has now become a national event complete with group readings of his essays.



Aldo Leopold relaxing on the property he restored in Wisconsin. Photo courtesy of the Aldo Leopold Foundation.

In his essays, Leopold explored the flora and fauna of his plot season by season and also considered the broader issue of conservation. He called for harmony between nature and man that would go beyond a superficial "highway beautification" ethic. "A thing is right," he declared, "when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise. "



Photo and illustration from internet.

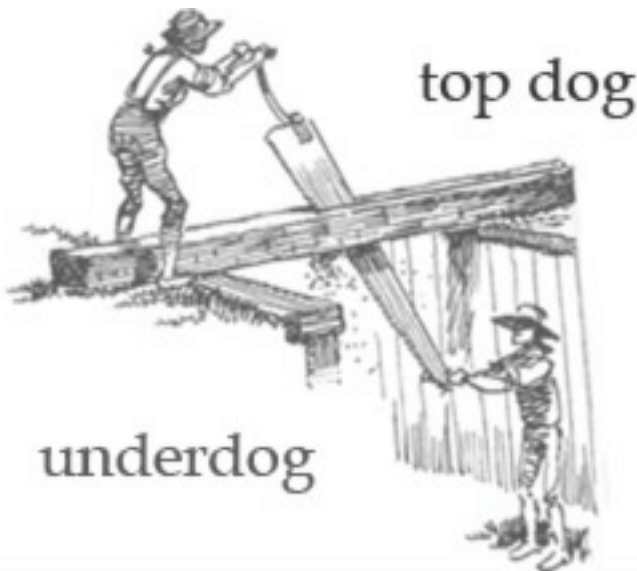
Following almost precisely in Leopold's footsteps, British scientist and author Richard Fortey (left) considers what is right in *The Wood for the Trees*, his exploration of how centuries of British forest practices have shaped the landscape of one small patch of woods. Like Leopold, Fortey purchased a woodland - Grim's Dyke Wood - and has studied every aspect of its history, flora, and fauna while learning to manage the beech woods. Unlike Leopold's woods, though, Grim's Dyke Wood has been managed for centuries, through beech coppicing in particular.

Now Fortey is melancholy about the future of woods like his.

Listing the many products his woods used to offer the rural economy – game, fuel, charcoal, chair legs, faggots, spiles, and more – Fortey writes: "Grim's Dyke Wood is a survivor, but its survival until now has depended on being useful...But if the market no longer wants timber, where do we go? "

For now, it's a question in search of an answer.

Richard Fortey found sales records indicating that the larger beeches in Grim's Dyke Wood were sawn into planks in a sawpit. And an unexpected find for Fortey was the remains of one old sawpit, a testament to the accuracy of the records.



Fortey explains in his book how the terms *underdog* and *top dog* derive from sawpit work.

Trunks of full-grown beech and oak were sawn into lengths which could then be sawn into more uniform planks. Each log was held firmly in place by 'G' shaped clamps called 'dogs' that were hammered into the log being cut. A two-man team using a huge saw would cut the trunk as they walked back and forth.

Most people today assume the words derive from dogfights. And, certainly, the underdog was the one at a disadvantage. But so was the man standing in the pit facing up to a rain of sawdust without protective goggles!



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

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

April 29 Workshop and Annual Meeting, Lockwood Farm,
Hamden, CT. See p.2 for more information.

June 14 Training Session for PA 490 Qualified Foresters, Con-
necticut Forest and Park Association, Rockfall, CT.

Get Involved

The Board of Directors is seeking members who are inter-
ested 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.