

The Cutting Edge



Inside This Issue

P. 2, TIMPRO News: Connecticut Children's Medical Center; John Trowbridge (1947-2017)

P. 3, CT-DEEP Comprehensive Energy Strategy

P. 4 -5, TIMPRO Team at GOL

P. 6-7, News You Can Use: Deer Tick Population; EHDV-6; Land Use Study Updates

P. 8 - 10, Bits and Chokers: Kimi Sekorski, Firefighter; Trade in Flux; Luncheon with Sec. Perdue; Eric A. Johnson (1958-2017)

P. 11, Consider a Log A Load donation this holiday season

P. 12, Calendar

Cover photo courtesy of Connecticut Children's Medical Center

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A NEW PARTNERSHIP AHEAD FOR TIMPRO AND CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER

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 AND CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER



Thanks to our ongoing support through Log A Load, TIMPRO is entering a new relationship with the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. On October 12, Brennan Sheahan and Joan Nichols accepted a personal invitation to take a tour of the Center and to educate themselves regarding the needs of this wonderful facility. There they talked with Development Coordinator Marissa Troiano (center). "It was so great to meet Joan and Brennan," Troiano said. "TIMPRO has donated over \$30,000 dollars since 2007. This year's donation was \$4000! It's amazing because they're doing fundraising independently. It was great to talk about how to further the partnership."

A partnership would be significant for the hospital, Troiano emphasized. "We're the only free-standing children's hospital in the state. We have over 325,000 patient visits. Our Emergency Department receives 55,000 patient visits a year. Our facility was built in 1996. We are continuing to update and renovate the Medical Center so that we can give our patients the best possible care. Our patients and families are very grateful for TIMPRO's help. We really hope to have TIMPRO get to meet some of those patients this year."

Photo courtesy of Connecticut Children's Medical Center

John Trowbridge (1947 –2017)

"John Trowbridge, owner of Trowbridge Forest Products, passed away over Thanksgiving weekend. John, a graduate of the University of CT – School of Engineering, started logging in 1970 cutting 4' pulp and quickly graduated to a 440 JD Cable skidder. For over 40 years, he led the industry in innovation both in equipment and markets as one of the first logging companies to export logs to Canada and overseas. His business was built on integrity and honesty. Most importantly, John cared. He cared about the men who worked for him, the resource, and the landowners who trusted their forestland to him. John was a past Board Member of the Northeastern Loggers Association," recalled Joan Nichols, Board Member and past TIMPRO President. Brennan Sheahan added, "Both the Board and I send our heartfelt condolences to John's son, David Trowbridge. I have personally managed several woodlots previously harvested by John and have always been impressed with their overall health and productivity. John's professional impact on Connecticut's forest landscape will remain a big part of our forest's legacy for decades to come."

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.

TIMPRO President Brennan Sheahan's September 20 response to the "CT-DEEP Comprehensive Energy Strategy" which mandates keeping emissions to a certain level by 2050. This mandate may eliminate the Renewal Energy Credits (RECs) that make Biomass investment possible.

The Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association (TIMPRO CT) is writing to voice its concern regarding your recommended goals and strategies noted in *Goal #1, E.1.2: Phase down biomass and landfill gas RECs in Connecticut's Class I of the RPS*.

Our organization represents CT's forest products industry. Our members include foresters, loggers, sawmills, chip facilities and landowners. Often times, it seems that our hard work and dedication to the betterment of CT's forest landscape go unnoticed. We play a vital role in keeping our local environment healthy, productive, and clean of unwanted dead and dying forest landscapes. We are a thriving industry that is losing low grade markets at a rapid pace. These low grade markets are crucial in maintaining a vibrant and healthy forest. Our industry plays a large economic role within the State of CT, generating \$2.1 billion in sales (*The Economic Importance of Connecticut's Forest Based Economy 2015*).

When we learned about your desire to phase out ***Biomass REC's***, we felt the need to voice our concern with this issue and to educate you on the multiple benefits of expanding the ***Biomass REC*** program. The best way to support our position is to look at our neighboring State of Massachusetts and its wisdom of supporting the biomass industry for the betterment of their "Green Movement".

Massachusetts has embraced the wood industry to reach its goals of a ***zero carbon economy*** and ***green-house gas reduction goals***. Over the years it has offered large grants to its citizens to replace their old, inefficient woodstoves with new EPA certified cleaner-burning options. Since 2012 over 1400 dirty burning woodstoves have been replaced. Another \$450,000 grant is being offered in 2017 for this program. Most participants have been replacing their woodstoves with cleaner burning pellet stoves. The wood pellet industry offers an energy efficient and clean burning alternative to the traditional woodstove. Massachusetts has also supported pellet heating systems for high schools and hospitals. These pellet boiler systems supply renewable clean energy with significant annual savings. The Hawlemont Regional School in Charlemont, MA saved over \$17,000 in its first year of operation, reducing its oil consumption by over 12,000 gallons (*Massachusetts Forest Alliance Update September 2017*). Massachusetts has now approved the Palmer Renewable Energy Project, a 38 megawatt biomass power plant in East Springfield. This project is a \$150 million project that will burn green wood chips and demolition debris. A plant this size would employ an estimated 50 full-time workers and purchase an estimated 73,000 tons of chips from local suppliers. The forest products industry would benefit greatly from this business with the availability of a local market for low grade material. A market for low grade wood is key for implementing sound forest management principles on the surrounding forest landscape. This is a win-win formula for Massachusetts forestlands and the goal of obtaining a carbon neutral form of energy. These same advances in biomass energy have been welcomed and embraced by Vermont as well.

TIMPRO CT hopes that CT DEEP will reverse its position on biomass by increasing its funding and investing our tax dollars into a cleaner and healthier source of energy. TIMPRO CT strongly supports growing use of pellet woodstoves, construction of a pellet manufacturing facility here within our borders, an increase in the use of small scale pellet/woodchip boiler systems, woodstove update program, and the expansion of another 35-50 megawatt biomass plant in western CT. A strongly supported biomass agenda within our borders will leave our forests healthier, create local jobs, allow forested land to stay forested, help our landowners generate much needed income, and create a comprehensive energy plan that really helps with our State's goal of a zero carbon economy and greenhouse gas reductions.

Sincerely,

Brennan Sheahan – President
Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association

TIMPRO TEAM EXCELS AT AUGUST 2017 GAME OF LOGGING



NAME	BIG STUMP	S. CUT	SPRG POLE	BORE CUT	PREC. STMP.	BUCK-ING	ALIX SCORE	FELL-ING	LMB	TOTAL
Paul Burk	35	50	35	30	60	0	100		100	550
Jeremy Bellows	50	40	30	24	25	35	90	110	100	504
Marshall Janison	25	30	30	21	45	25	80	103	0	359
Bill Carver	40	20	25	44	50	45	70	125	70	489
Jim Bellows	41	10	10	41	37	0	40	10	5	163
Jerry Bellows	10	60	50	19	37	35	60	170	100	541

Paul Burke took the 1st prize of \$1200. Gerald Bellows took 2nd, a new saw. Jeremy Bellows took the 3rd prize of \$500.

Top Left: L to R: Peter Sformo, Running timer and scorekeeper from WJ Cox Insurance; Jerry Bellows; Jeremy Bellows running the saw in spring pole event.

Bottom Left: Jeremy Bellows takes a rest at the end of the competition.

Top Right: Paul Burke cutting the pole

Bottom Right: The TIMPRO Team

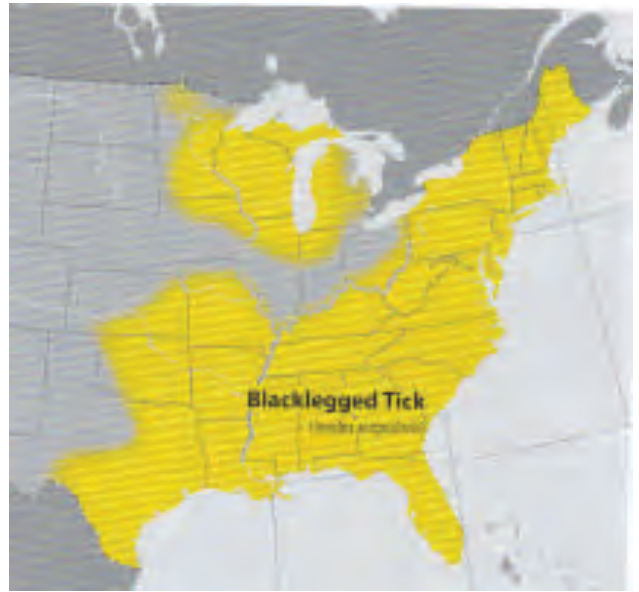
Photos courtesy of Joan Nichols.



NEWS YOU CAN USE

DEER TICK NUMBERS INCREASE

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station scientists Dr. Scott Williams, Ms. Megan Linske, and Dr. Jeffrey Ward report increases in the population of blacklegged ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*), also known as deer ticks, along with the spread of invasive Japanese barberry. Since replacing common barberry in landscapes, Japanese barberry has spread, creating dense thickets that crowd out native flora and create a humid environment in which the ticks thrive.



Map courtesy of Connecticut Woodlands

EHDV-6 AFFECTING CONNECTICUT DEER

The CT-DEEP Wildlife Division has documented symptoms in over 50 white-tailed deer consistent with Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHDV-6), primarily in Middletown and Portland but with a few in Chester, Haddam, and Lyme. Symptoms include swollen head, neck, tongue or eyelids with a bloody nasal discharge. Hunters are advised to avoid shooting, handling, or consuming an animal that behaved abnormally or appeared sick. When field dressing deer, hunters should wear latex or rubber gloves and disinfect any instruments that came in contact with the animal. If you observe any deer appearing emaciated, behaving strangely, or dead along the edge of waterbodies, please contact the DEEP Emergency Dispatch Center at 860-424-3333 or the DEEP Wildlife Division at 860-418-5921 or email Andrew.labonte@ct.gov.

LAND USE STUDY UPDATES FOCUS ON REGION'S FORESTS

Two updates of earlier studies, one from the UConn Extension Service and the other from the Harvard Forest in Massachusetts, deepen our understanding of land use and economic challenges faced by the New England forest industry.

The UConn study, an update of its 2015 report, documented the value — over \$132 million — generated by the forest products industry and related sectors such as hunting and trapping. It computed that forest represented 54% of total Connecticut land cover in 2015. Overall, commercial logging as well as commercial hunting and trapping experienced a substantial decline from 2007 to 2015 while newer enterprises, such as wineries, grew rapidly. However, both maple syrup production and sawmill/wood preservation activity increased. Finally, the UConn study estimated that all agricultural land sequestered approximately 14,900 metric tons of CO₂ in 2015, noting it was “the equivalent of taking 3,200 average passenger vehicles off the road...in Connecticut” and providing a service that would cost “between \$187,000 and \$1.8 million per year [in 2015 dollars].” (The discrepancy between these last two figures reflects the different measures used.)

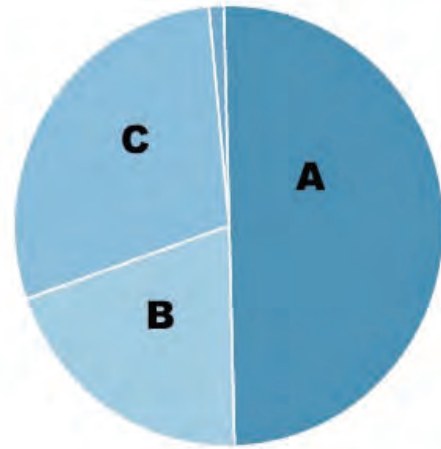
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Where the UConn report is a snapshot – an overview of Connecticut’s agricultural economy, The Harvard Forest Study, “Wildlands and Woodlands: Farmlands and Communities,” is a call to regional action. It starts with a 2010 report that forest cover was being lost to development in every New England state. This reversed over 150 years of forest regrowth following the large-scale abandonment of farmland and pastures. The study calls for retaining at least 70% of the remaining cover in forestland and 7% in farmland. It calls for “most” of the forest reserves to be “managed as woodlands for wood products and other benefits, while at least 10% (3 million acres) would be designated wildland reserves.” In addition to making these reserves, the report states explicitly: “Robust rural economies enable the individuals and families that produce our local wood and food to share in the region’s prosperity.”

The good news, according to the Harvard Forest report, that despite the recent economic downturn “the rate of land protection over the past 25 years was four times higher than in previous decades....Half of the region’s 9.8 million acres of conservation land was protected during this brief period.” [Ed note: Possibly the downturn actually enabled increased protection by driving down real estate values.] The report refers to a 2002 Harvard Forest report, “The Illusion of Preservation,” and calls for a coalition of the many hundreds of state or local preservation and conservation organizations to present a united front. A united front will be critical considering the potential cost of preserving forestland on this scale – up to “an additional \$23 billion in public funding.”

Both reports are available for download as PDFs.

2015 SALES OF FOREST PRODUCTS AND RELATED SECTORS



TOTAL VALUE = \$132 MILLION

A = Sawmills and wood preservation, 50%

B = Forest nurseries and forest products, 20 %

C = Commercial logging, 29%

UMASS SOFTWOOD STUMPAGE REPORT HITS QUARTER-CENTURY LANDMARK

Twenty-five years ago David B Kittredge, Senior Investigator at the Harvard Forest, started a softwood stumpage survey. Although Kittredge has retired, the survey is going on, thanks to Paul Catanzaro, Extension Assistant Professor, UMass at Amherst. “This may be the oldest such survey in the northeast,” Catanzaro said. “I think it’s important because many people make use of it. In fact, the State of Massachusetts bases our current use tax on stumpage. The data even allows us to reconstruct timber prices over time.” However, Catanzaro is clear the survey can’t continue as a paper form mailed out to respondents. He’ll mail out a last form for 2017 Q4 reports although it is now available on line (masswoods.net/southern-new-England-stumpage-price-survey). But beginning in 2018, the Q1 form will be exclusively online. At our November 8 Board Meeting, TIMPRO discussed making our email list available to Catanzaro for the report. The Q1 report can be filled out and submitted up to April 15.



BITS AND CHOKERS

FIREFIGHTING ON THE FRONT LINES

Kimi Sekorski, A 2013 scholarship winner, graduated college last spring and is living her dream. She has moved to John Day, Oregon where she is training to be a wildland firefighter at Malheur National Forest. This summer she reported, "I am currently at the John Day air base working with single engine air tankers (SEATs, as we call them). I am in charge of loading the tankers and mixing the fire retardant that goes in them as well as learning the logistics of running a SEAT base. On weekends I typically head with the fire engines and hand-crew in the area to assist them in firefighting. This base also has a very well known rappel team, the Malheur Rappel Crew (MRC) that I work with on a daily basis. I will need another year of initial attack fire experience under my belt before I can rappel." She reports that her supervisors are very encouraging and adds, "I have definitely found a family of great people out here who want nothing but to see me succeed – which is awesome!"

Her education got a real test when she was sent to help out teams battling the California wildfires this fall. She spent five days on the Mendocino Complex fire and then moved south to the Bear fire just northwest of Santa Cruz. "Other than a case of poison oak," she emailed, "it's definitely a big eye opener to be on a big complex fire versus the small initial attack activity that I have been focusing on for most of the summer. Seeing structures burnt to the ground is hard to get past but the people down here are so appreciative of all our hard work and the long hours we've been putting in to save the remaining structures around the wildland/urban interface. It's been some tough hiking in the hills but the views at the top are some I'll never forget."



Above: "I'm holding a hose on an initial attack effort for a small fire on our forest earlier in the season (about a half acre in size). My engine was the first to arrive on the scene. The past few weeks, the air tanker base was pretty busy so I stayed back and worked weekends here on the base. There were plenty of fires popping up all over Oregon because of all the lightning we received."

Left: Taking a break from firefighting in California this Fall.



Photos courtesy of Kimi Sekorski

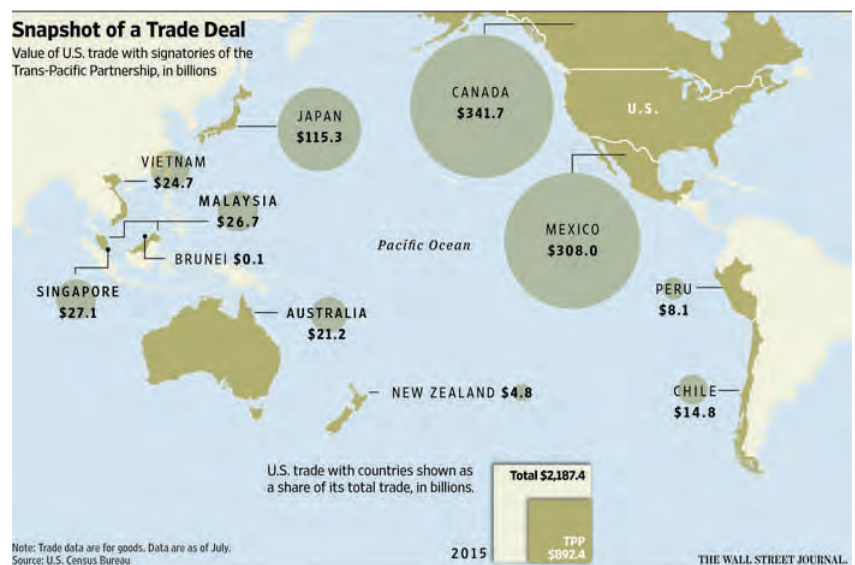
TRADING RELATIONS IN FLUX

TIMPRO is not in the lobster business but the news from Gidney Fisheries in Canada should interest us. Briefly, Canada has signed a pact with the European Union enabling Gidney to export lobsters to the EU free of tariffs. It's part of a rapid global shift in trade alliances. Here is a brief overview.

Canadian softwood: Litigation over Canadian export of softwoods to the US is nearly over after 12 years. Although the 1994 NAFTA agreement did not cover softwoods, a Nafta panel ruled in 2006 that government subsidies to Canada's softwood industry were too low for the US to raise tariffs. The US Department of Commerce valued 2016 softwood lumber imports from Canada at \$5.6 billion dollars and maintained that Canada provided unfair subsidies at rates of 3.34-18.19%. The US has now set final total tariffs for most Canadian softwood lumber producers at 20.8%. A few were singled out for higher duties, even one up to 23.8%. The combined countervailing and anti-dumping duties are below preliminary tariffs issued earlier but Canada has called them "unfair, unwarranted and deeply troubling" and has filed a challenge. The final tariffs will be set if the US International Trade Commission (ITC) determines that the US industry was harmed. We currently import Canadian softwood lumber products, like pine, fir, and spruce, for constructing single family homes. But so many mills in southern New England have closed that many loggers in the region must ship softwood logs to Canada for processing.

NAFTA: The North American Free Trade Agreement negotiations with Mexico, Canada, and the US were originally scheduled for three sessions – one in each nation's capitol. They were extended into a fifth round in Mexico City last month. The December 2017 deadline has been abandoned in favor of March 2018. The goal is to reflect the many changes in commerce and production since the pact was signed 25 years ago. While softwood exports from Canada were not covered in the original pact, renegotiations will affect other aspects of the movement of wood and wood products between the US and Canada. In an opening statement, Robert Lighthizer, lead US trade representative, acknowledged that Nafta benefits American farmers and people living along the border but stated, "We feel that Nafta has fundamentally failed many, many Americans and needs major improvement." While most attention has gone to the deficit with Mexico (\$55.6 billion last year), less visible is the small but growing deficit with Canada which Lighthizer declared "cannot continue." For example, Canada currently limits dairy imports. The Trump Administration says Mexico has an unfair advantage because its auto manufacturers use some parts imported from countries outside the Nafta region. Currently, a car can be imported to the US duty-free if at least 62.5% of the car was made in North America. The Administration and the United Automobile Workers Union want that percentage raised. While the three Nafta signatories signed a non-disclosure pact at the first meetings in Washington, DC., a sign of growing conflict is the decision last month of the countries' cabinet-level officials to skip further meetings and leave discussion to lower level members of their negotiating teams. The US has also added several new demands, including a "sunset clause" allowing Nafta to expire after 5 years. With elections set in 2018 for both Mexico and the USA, chances for a deal are slim.

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP): This year the Trump Administration withdrew the US from the Trans-Pacific Partnership that included Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. The map illustrates our trade to and from the West Coast with the size of each circle reflecting the value and volume of trade.



Continued on next page....

TIMPRO REPRESENTED AT MEETING WITH SECRETARY PERDUE

Brennan Sheahan represented the CT forest products industry when U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue attended a luncheon August 31 at Prides Corner Farm in Lebanon. While there Brennan talked with Cameron Faustman - Interim Dean and Director UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources (left) and Don Tuller, President of The Connecticut Farm Bureau Association (right).



Photos courtesy of Brennan Sheahan

Eric A. Johnson (1958—2017)

TIMPRO lost a leader, an advocate, and a friend when Eric A. Johnson passed away on July 18, 2017 after a long illness. Born June 13, 1958, he had a brief career as a logger but, with a degree in journalism, became Editor of *The Northern Logger*. He worked for the magazine and for the Northeastern Loggers Association for almost 35 years. Recalling that he and Eric were just about the same age, Henry Gundlach said, "I've known him for about 30 years. He was always supportive of the industry, always positive. If I ever called and needed to talk to him or had a question, he'd always get back to me or dig up what I was hunting for." He will be sorely missed.

TRADE RELATIONS IN FLUX continued....

The pact aims to lower barriers to trade, including non-tariff barriers. There is considerable dispute about how TPP will affect the US economy. What's not in dispute is that US withdrawal has already created a power vacuum. That vacuum strengthens China's hand as it works to bring Asian countries into its diplomatic and economic sphere. While Japan's brutal occupation of China and Korea in the 1930's and 40's has left a legacy of wariness, even animosity, Chinese Premier Xi Jinping recently met with Japanese Premier Shinzo Abe about trade. They were photographed standing together and smiling at each other, a signal of possible future cooperation. On top of all this are the yet unknown impacts of Brexit and hearings by the World Trade Organization into US claims that China no longer deserves special treatment as a "developing country."

We don't know yet how all this will affect the forest products industry. We do know that Gidney Fisheries is packing up those lobsters.

[Ed Note: This report was compiled from sources including the British Broadcasting Company, The Economist, The New York Times, The Northern Logger, Northern Woodlands, The Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post.]



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PO Box 508
Oneco, CT 06373

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:

PO Box 508

Oneco, CT 06373

860-948-0432

info@timproct.org

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

www.timproct.org

CHECK OUT THE SPECIAL PREMIUM FOR A DONATION TO THE CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER, PART OF THE CHILDREN'S MIRACLE HOSPITAL NETWORK.

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.