

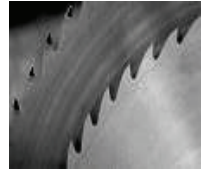


A PUBLICATION OF THE CONNECTICUT  
PROFESSIONAL TIMBER PRODUCERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

SPRING 2018

ISSUE 31

# *The Cutting Edge* →



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Cover Photo courtesy of Kevin Massey; Cover art by Deborah Roach

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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 recalls with sorrow the passing of two long-time members:**

**James Alfred Tallon (1937-2017)**

**Stephen Klemchuck (1965-2018)**

James Alfred Tallon died Saturday, October 14, 2017 at his home. A native of Winsted, Jim grew up in Pine Meadow, CT and graduated from Paul Smith's College in New York. After working at Cookson Lumber and Great Mountain Forest, Jim started Tallon Lumber, which he operated in Norfolk and Canaan for 47 years. His greatest passions in life were his family and his business. In addition, he had a love for his Irish heritage, boating, fishing, and sawmills. He was also a member of St. Martin of Tours Parish St. Joseph's Church in Canaan. Jim is survived by his four children: Colleen Tallon Goldstein and her husband Jeffrey of Alexandria, VA; Timothy Tallon and his wife Debra of Norfolk, CT; Michael Tallon of Canaan; and Brion Tallon and his wife Heather of Canaan; his sister Maureen Stoliker of Fort Mills, SC; eight grandchildren; great-grandson Benjamin Chase, and his beloved dog Skidder.

Stephen Klemchuk passed away unexpectedly on Friday January 19, 2018 doing what he loved best – working in the woods. The owner and operator of SMK Forest Products LLC, he was a hard worker as well as an avid NASCAR fan. He is survived by his fiancée Donna Beaulieu; his mother Dottie Klemchuk; sisters Nancy Minski (Allen) and Nancy Poirier (Ryan); daughter Trista Klemchuk of Oklahoma; and son Stephen Klemchuk of Vermont; and three grandchildren as well as many nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his cats which he loved and adored.

**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](http://www.timproct.org).





### TIMPRO DELIVERS THE CHECK!

On December 11, Board members (l to r) Henry Gundlach, Kyle Bruetsch, and Brennan Sheahan delivered our Log-A-Load donation check to Marissa Troiano, Development Coordinator for the Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC). On October 12, 2017, Brennan and Joan Nichols met with Troiano to discuss how to grow our relationship with CCMC. Troiano hailed this as the strengthening of a long-term relationship. TIMPRO has been an active participant in Log-A-Load fundraising efforts for CCMC since 2007.

See page 11 for a way to donate.

*Photo courtesy of CCMC*

### SCHOLARSHIP UPDATES

2016 Scholarship winner Mary Reilly was enthusiastic about returning to Montana State University for her sophomore year. "My freshman year was a lot of fun," she emailed. "I took a class called Seed Identification. It was all about learning how to identify trees, shrubs, and flowers. It was my favorite class and I was offered a teaching assistant position for Spring 2018, which I'm hoping to have time for. This coming semester, I will have a vehicle and I'm going to be looking for a job off campus with either horses or the park service. I am going to continue hiking and rock climbing in my free time. This fall I took vertebrate anatomy and a class called Biometry that focuses on statistics concerning wildlife. I was excited about both even though they were my hardest two classes." Also a 2016 Scholarship winner, Dianna Bloom reports that back at Unity College in Maine she is still interested in conservation law with a minor in psychology. In addition, she emailed, "I have become active in a few clubs and am even an officer in them."



2017 Winner Ally Winans (above left) reports being busy at the University of New Haven but writes that "Freshman year is going great! I've already had a lot of lab and field experience which has been a lot of work but a lot of fun. This semester I'm taking a class about different careers in the marine biology field, which is really opening my eyes to all the options I have."

*Photo courtesy of Ally Winans*

## MARCH 5 TREE FARM AND HOTCHKISS SCHOOL HEATING PLANT TOUR BY BRENNAN SHEAHAN



TIMPRO CT had a wonderful turnout for our March 5th tour of Jim Gillespie's Tree Farm and The Hotchkiss School Biomass Facility. More than 65 loggers, foresters, and guests showed up at 72 Herb Road, Sharon, to see for themselves the very impressive forest land clearcuts for early successional habitat. Our tour guide and forester, Jim Gillespie, (L) started off this brisk beautiful day with an overview of the history of the land and stories of previous timber harvests. Jim offered great visuals, printouts, and articles of the local land use of this forested landscape. Once we got the background, we all bundled up and headed out for our tour through the Gillespie Tree Farm.

Jim showed us 7 clearcuts that he implemented from 1994-2009 totaling 95 acres +/- . The regeneration was spectacular with young hardwood stands maintaining a stocking density of 500-800 trees per acre. Jim told us how much work has been invested into the future forest production of these woodlands. The 5+ miles (35 miles of wire) deer exclosure fencing projects alone told us just how dedicated Jim is to regrowth of high quality hardwood forests. Jim has treated over 90

acres with invasive plant control and has spent hours on crop tree release and timber stand improvement. We walked on well-maintained interior forest roads and crossed two handcrafted bridges. Grants from the USDA NRCS - WHIP and EQIP - and from the CT DEEP funded portions of the forest improvement practices. Towards the end of our hike we saw a beautiful 13-acre field that will be maintained in perpetuity by a 19- acre conservation easement granted to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. The tour was a testament to Jim's love of the land and the forest.

In 2010, Jim published "In Defense of Clearcuts" in the *Litchfield County Times*. (Check the link on our website.) He explained in the article: "More than 600,000 trees have started growing in clearcuts that have been protected from deer by constructing solar-powered temporary electric fences. In a given area (three to 35 acres) all trees two inches in diameter and greater are cut, with the larger ones utilized for firewood and timber. The hardwood forests have responded to the increased sunlight that favors the hardwoods, especially oaks. The oldest clearcuts (now 23 years) contain trees up to 10" in diameter and 40 feet tall with oak (red, white, chestnut, black), birch (black, yellow, white), hickory, tulip, ash, sugar maple, red maple, basswood, aspen and understory shrubs/small trees (serviceberry, blueberry, witch hazel, dogwood)."





Although TIMPRO had planned a simple bag lunch, Gillespie surprised and delighted the workshop participants with a hot lunch catered by When Pigs Fly South, a barbecue place in Sharon. Gillespie served the food in his heated garage. "I was up til 11 PM the night before cleaning the place out," he joked. "When I ordered the food, chef Bennet Chin told me I'd have lots of leftovers. Hardly anything was left!"

After this delicious hot barbeque, we had a chance to catch up with old friends and time to talk about the current challenges facing our industry before we headed to The Hotchkiss School Biomass Facility. There we met 3 Hotchkiss staff members intimately involved in the operation of this incredibly impressive facility. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> heating season of this facility. The biomass plant was built to reduce the carbon footprint of The Hotchkiss School by 35-45%. The project was needed to replace a very old oil boiler system that was using #6 heating oil. The cost of this project was just under \$14 million, about \$4 million more than a modern oil boiler system. But the wood chip boiler saves the school \$600 - \$700K in heating costs a year and more than pays for the extra expense of this biomass facility.

Our guides explained the process in detail. The biomass facility uses 5500 tons of primarily hardwood bole chips that are locally produced from the forest product sector. The facility gets two tractor-trailer loads per day during their 5-month heating season. The burning of the wood chips equals a savings of \$3300 per day vs. oil. We were thoroughly impressed with this biomass facility and asked many questions. The biggest takeaway from this tour was 'Why aren't there more of these types of facilities found within the State of CT?' The Hotchkiss School has shown the many environmental benefits of this biomass facility. The forest product sector is very eager to help fill the need of many more future biomass facilities.

TIMPRO CT member Kevin Massey commented, "The tour of the tree farm was an excellent way to showcase these positive outcomes of a proper clearcut. From cutting clearcuts, personally, I was interested to see what it will look like 20 years later. Many people were interested in The Hotchkiss School heating facility. After looking at the operation, we wondered what needs to be done to have more of these facilities. This will not only create a better market for hardwood pulp but also create jobs in the surrounding areas."

Just think, if we could have ten of these facilities within our state, this would equate to 55,000 tons of wood-chips a year or 2200 tractor trailer loads of low-grade forest products utilized for green energy per heating season. What a wonderful thought! Thank you so much to The Hotchkiss School for giving our membership a look into this truly remarkable green energy biomass heating facility.



**Visit our website for more pictures of this event.**  
**Read more about shrub habitat page 9.**

*Photo opposite page top left and this page above courtesy of Brennan Sheahan.*

*Photo opposite page right courtesy of Jim Gillespie.*

## CORNELL WEBINAR ANALYZES FOREST STOCKING IN CONNECTICUT

Connecticut may be 60% forested, but what Dr. Jeffrey Ward sees on the ground is a different story. A Chief Scientist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Dr. Ward reported his findings this January in a Cornell University webinar. In a recent phone call, he noted these statistics:

- ◆ 200,000 acres in Connecticut are poorly stocked (<35% stocking)
- ◆ 600,000 acres in Southern New England are poorly stocked
- ◆ 3,000,000 acres in New England, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania are poorly stocked
- ◆ Another 7.5 million acres in the above area are only one harvest away from being poorly stocked.

Dr. Ward explained that there are many reasons for these grim numbers, including gypsy moths, EAB, and occasional wildfires. "But the real problem is the impact of high-grading," he said. He illustrated his webinar with a bar chart of the stocking on an all too typical northwest Connecticut property. High grading here removed the best trees without a plan for regeneration. [See "Case Study" opposite page]

Stands may have high basal area and look well stocked. But basal area alone doesn't tell the right story, Dr. Ward emphasized. "We have basal area through the roof in some stands but a lot of that is in low quality or defective red maple, beech and hemlock." So Dr. Ward focuses on rehabilitation of poorly stocked stands and, especially, regeneration of two valuable commercial species - white pine and oak.

On stands such as the NW Connecticut property described on the next page, he tested two different approaches. On one set of plots, he cleared defective trees, chiefly red maple and beech, and now monitors natural regeneration. On the second set, he cleared defective trees and planted white pine and oak seedlings. To judge the impact of deer browse, some of the planted seedlings were protected with mesh tubes and others were left unprotected.

Deer browse is a significant challenge to regeneration. The population of deer fluctuates year-to-year for many reasons, Dr. Ward said. For example, a harsh winter six years ago reduced deer populations in northern Connecticut: "The deer population there has fallen to a new lower level that has stabilized, perhaps because there are also more predators of fawns, such as black bear, coyotes, and even bobcats. But despite the reduced population levels, browse is still high enough to depress growth of valuable oaks."

Sport hunting can make a big difference. "Where there's hunting, we see improved regeneration success. Where there's no hunting, all we see is birch and beech. We want deer but the population has to be in balance with the resources. And you can't realistically get below 12 deer/square mile" he said. "Fencing areas could help but the fencing has to be over 8 feet tall to be acceptable and that is expensive!"

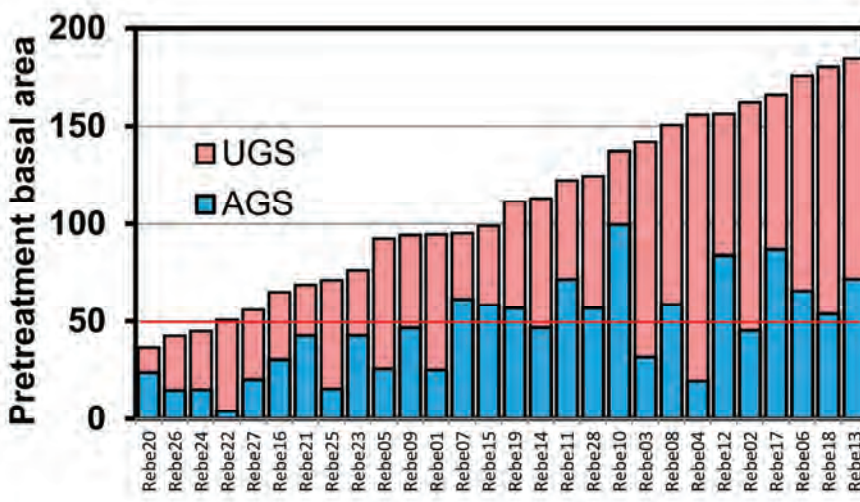
Invasive plants can also prevent oak and white pine from thriving even where open spaces would provide room for them to grow well. The list is long and growing longer: mile-a-minute weed, stiltgrass, buckthorn, bittersweet, barberry, honey suckle are just a few. And a changing climate with warming winters makes Connecticut attractive to southern species. Even a thick carpet of native ferns can choke out seedlings. Short of pulling invasives up by hand, eradication is difficult and requires chemical applications - usually more than one.

So what can landowners do? Canada has adopted an expensive solution of microstand management. Each microstand is roughly 1/10 acre - the area that can be reached by a harvester with a 30-foot arm. Trained operators using mechanical harvesters evaluate small stands and tailor cutting to the needs of that microstand, an approach beyond the means of most American landowners.

But Dr. Ward sees a good local solution: “The forester provides loggers with several options and empowers them to make the decision at each microstand, making the logger a partner. Most of our loggers are damn good. Consider them a partner. This drives down cost because you don’t need to pay for every tree in the forest to be marked.” The Canadians found that trained loggers typically make the same decisions as the forester. Of course, trust but verify is the watchword: he advises landowners to check the forest product harvester’s CT-DEEP credentials and references.

Dr. Ward expects to finalize another study of regeneration throughout Connecticut soon. “We’ve examined 77 stands throughout the state and hope to get to 100. I’ve got 1530 points of data covering 3120 acres,” he summed up, “Can our poorly stocked stands recover: Yes, I see plots where oak is starting to pop up.”

### NOTES FROM THE FIELD: A CASE STUDY IN REGENERATION



**UGS** Unacceptable Growing Stock **AGS** Acceptable Growing Stock

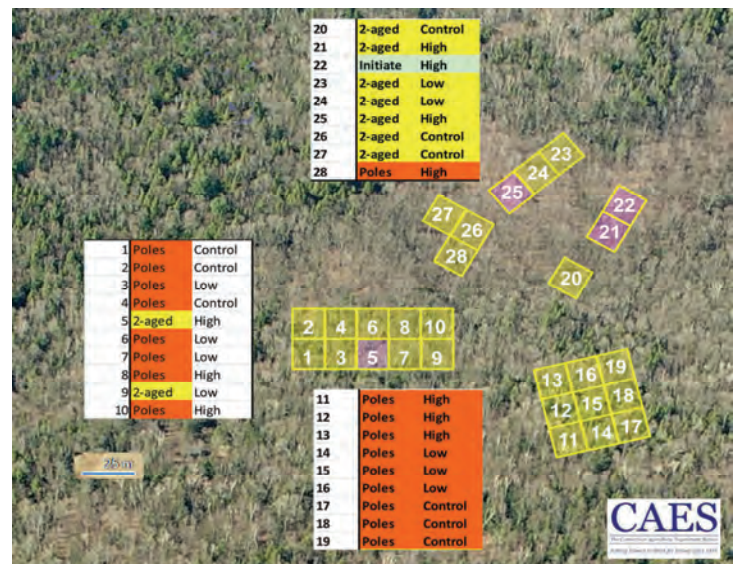
After high-grading, this 180-acre property, formerly rich in oak, was left with patchy growth including extensive beech stands. In 2012, Dr. Ward proposed to the landowners establishing test plots using four parallel, simultaneous approaches – one for each prescription goal. The twenty-eight study plots were established in 2015.

The first step was selecting high quality trees of desirable species such as oak, sugar maple, and yellow birch that met rigorous standards. For butt logs: a minimum of 16 ft to the first major fork; no branches in buttlog with diameters > 2"; no live epicormic branches; a lean less than 10%

sweep; sweep less than 6 in; no crook; no more than one seam; no cankers or gum; and no exposed wood wider than 2". However, red maple or aspen would not be selected if it had seams or exposed wood.

Dr. Ward randomly assigned 3 plots to each rehabilitation level (see map): high intensity, low intensity, and no treatment. For poletimber trees, he and his team have regularly sampled the degree of release by species, crown class, diameter, live crown ratio, pulpwood height, height of bottom live branch, total height, cubic-foot cull, and potential butt log grade. For sapling stems (diameters 0.5-4.9"), the team has sampled species, crown class, diameter, live crown ratio, height of bottom live branch, and total height. They have also been following the growth of planted pine and oak.

With a time frame of 5 years, Dr. Ward’s study on this property is nearing its culmination. On some plots, results have been disappointing. Even so, there are places where white pine and oak are making a comeback.



*Graph and map courtesy of CAES*

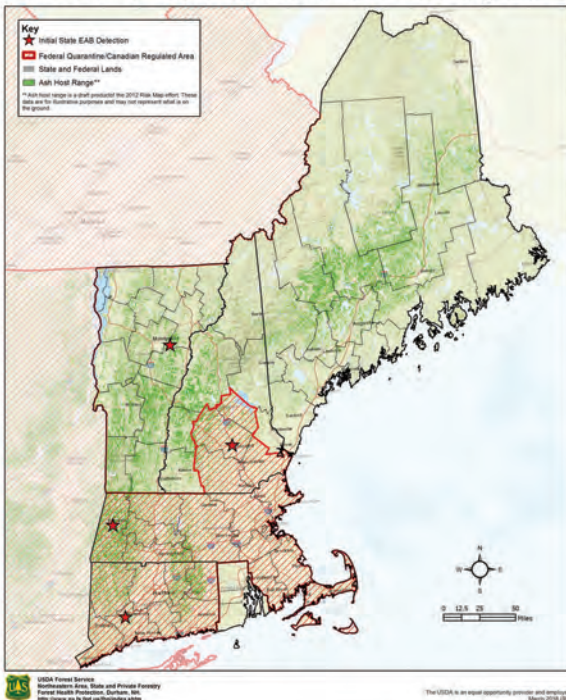




## BITS AND CHOKERS

### EAB QUARANTINE EXTENDED

**Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine in New England**



Canada has expanded its EAB regulated area in Quebec to the Maine and New Hampshire United States borders. Some Canadian saw-mills may be advertising their ability to accept US-derived ash year round. Be aware that the United States EAB quarantine and movement restrictions have not changed. The United States has EAB regulations that restrict transport of ash logs.

It is illegal to move regulated ash logs harvested within an EAB quarantine area through a non-EAB quarantine area (Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire's non-quarantined counties) during the flight period (May 1-September 30). Refer to the map at left.

If you plan to sell or transport ash logs to Canada, contact USDA APHIS PPQ (203) 741-5641 to assure you are in compliance with federal interstate transport regulations.

### USDA RELEASES MAJOR CLIMATE CHANGE STUDY

Recent publications from the USDA include a comprehensive study of climate change impacts on regional forests. The booklet, "New England and Northern New York Forest Ecosystem Vulnerability Assessment and Synthesis," is a report by the New England Climate Change Response Framework Project. The Framework is a collaborative, cross-boundary approach including scientists, managers, and landowners. It is one of six Framework projects covering 250,000,000 acres in the US.

A key finding is that mean annual temperature increased by 2.4° F (1.3° C) between 1901 and 2011. Mean, minimum, and maximum temperatures increased across all seasons over the past century with winter temperatures warming the most rapidly. Precipitation patterns have also changed with a trend toward greater annual precipitation. Snowfall has generally decreased while the growing season has increased.

The study projects a decrease in boreal tree species such as balsam fir and black spruce while species such as red maple, northern red oak, black cherry, and American basswood will have increases in suitable habitat. Overall, the report predicts a profound change in forest productivity.

A copy of this report and others is available for free as a download or print copy at the USDA website, [usda.org](http://usda.org)





## CONNECTICUT BIRD ATLAS TO BE UPDATED

The Connecticut Audubon Society released its annual Connecticut State of the Birds report in December and called on conservationists throughout the state to support work on the upcoming Connecticut Bird Atlas. Collaborating with the CT-DEEP and the University of Connecticut, the Society will launch this comprehensive three-year project in the spring.

Connecticut Audubon devoted its entire report – its 12th annual – to the Atlas because of the importance of the project. The last Connecticut Atlas came out in the early 1990s based on data collected in mid-1980s, so we can expect to see major changes.

At a news conference in Hartford, Connecticut Audubon Society Executive Director Patrick Comins said: “So often throughout my career in conservation I’ve had to guess which species of conservation concern might benefit from a particular project to conserve land. The Atlas will take it to the next level. When this project is done, we will finally know exactly which places are most important to which species and be able to make much better conservation decisions.”



Tom Andersen, the Society’s Director of Communications, said the study will involve 596 blocks of 9 square miles each. “Once we have looked at and analyzed the data we’ll be able to make some recommendations,” he explained. “We’re hoping, at the very least, that conservation organizations will use it. Even better would be if municipalities decide where developments should go. Also, I’d love large landowners to use it in managing their forests. The birds in Connecticut which are declining are the ones nesting in very young woods and shrubby areas. Forestry practices that clear areas in the midst of the forest but allow regeneration will help them,” he added.

The CT-DEEP reports that New England populations of shrubland habitat birds are in decline. These are bird species that need shrubland habitat for breeding. Popu-

lations of the eastern towhee (left) and brown thrasher have declined by over 90% since the 1960s. Also in decline are the golden-winged warbler, and the yellow-breasted chat. Throughout the region, 80% of the total species that rely on shrubland habitat have experienced declines. The CT DEEP is calling for active management to retain existing shrubland sites and/or create new shrublands.

TIMPRO members are well aware of the need to preserve, protect, and improve bird habitats. In fact, Jim Gillespie, who hosted us at the recent CEU workshop, participated in a Connecticut Audubon Society survey a few years ago. He clearcuts small patches on his 140-acre property to promote regeneration of desired hardwoods, a practice that creates the shrubby openings many endangered birds need for nesting and feeding. “They found 40 species here,” he said.

*Photo Eastern Towhee courtesy of Paul J. Fusco*

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## THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX:



TIMPRO members are ingenious.

They have to be!

Peter Hart of Hartwood Forest Service in Barkhamsted had to think outside the box when he was called February 9, 2018 to pick up some logs.

A tree service had cut down a dead oak tree in Bristol. Its DBH was 59" and the logs were so big, they wouldn't fit in the bucket of the trucker who was supposed to take them away.

Even cut into four chunks, the logs weren't easy for Hart to take. He had to stand some upright to fit them in.

He says this the first time in 35 years he's hauled logs vertically!

Three pieces ultimately went for firewood and the last was discarded for wildlife habitat.

*Photos courtesy of Peter and Lynda Hart*





## HELP SUPPORT THE CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK

**DONATE \$50 AND RECEIVE 1 BIG RIG**  
**DONATE \$40 AND RECEIVE 1 LITTLE LOGGER**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

INDICATE QUANTITY:

SEND ME \_\_\_\_\_ "BIG RIG."



SEND ME \_\_\_\_\_ "LITTLE LOGGER."

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR \_\_\_\_\_ .



MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TIMPRO CT. INDICATE "LOG A LOAD"  
ON THE MEMO LINE.

SEND CHECKS TO TREASURER, TIMPRO CT, PO BOX 508, ONECO, CT 06373



PO Box 508  
Oneco, CT 06373

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018

#### 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](http://www.timproct.org)

**APRIL 14, TIMPRO CT ANNUAL MEETING, TRI-STATE DIESEL,  
ENFIELD, CT.**

#### 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.