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The Cutting Edge



Inside This Issue

P. 2-4, TIMPRO CT News: Board appoints new members; Luc Poirier; Ag Day; FFA; DC Fly-In

P. 5, UConn reports on state bear density and distribution

P. 6-7, News You Can Use: April 14 Workshop

P.8-9, Bits And Chokers: USDA's Southern New England Heritage Forest; There's an App for that!; Healthy Forest Initiative

P.10, Thinking Outside the Box: La Marginetta

P.11, Log A Load Donation Form

P. 12, Calendar

Cover: Joe Cranouski on April 14. See story p. 6. Photo courtesy of Joan Nichols

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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

KEVIN MASSEY JOINS BOARD. JIM GILLESPIE JOINS AS ALTERNATE

Newly appointed to the Board at the April 14 Annual Meeting. Jim Gillespie, who so generously hosted our March CEU tour, joins as an Alternate and Kevin Massey as a Board member.

While a relative newcomer TIMPRO, Kevin has been active from the start so it made perfect sense for him to join the TIMPRO CT Board in April. "I attended a couple of meetings as a bystander," he said in a recent phone interview, "but I'm glad to be officially part of the group."

Massey is no stranger to leadership. "I served as an officer in my FFA chapter at Housatonic Valley High School," he recalled. And this year he was part of the DC Fly-In (story page 4). "Henry [Gundlach] had me speak at the American Loggers Council there. I'd done public speaking for FFA and given many presentations before – I was even wearing my FFA t-shirt!" He got a round of applause for his presentation. "The whole event was an eye-opening experience," he said of the pages and pages of legislation for pending bills.

Massey is currently working for J&J Log & Lumber Company on a 200-acre job in Pennsylvania suitable for the use of his feller-buncher. He was thoughtful when asked about opportunities in Connecticut. "It's tough," he responded, "High-grading is an issue. A landowner in Massachusetts wanted me to cut on his property. But it had been high-graded. Plus, in Connecticut you have to travel more with your equipment to jobs. That's another big issue."



Serving on the Board will give Massey a chance to advocate for better state policies as he continues to expand his experience. Not resting on his laurels, he has passed his Forest Supervisor test and is also certified now in Massachusetts. Up next? "Maybe going one step further and getting my forester license," he says.

Read Kevin's article about the Washington, DC Fly-IN, page 4.

Photo courtesy of Kevin Massey

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.



tendee how to use the controls. This is another great way to get the next generation interested in the logging industry.

TIMPRO AT FFA EVENT

On June 2, Brennan Sheahan, Henry Gundlach, Kevin Massey, Justin Gundlach, and Joan Nichols attended the FFA State Convention at E. O. Smith High School in Storrs. Henry Gundlach and Bob Carrington were able to borrow a simulator from John Deere in co-operation with W.I. Clark of Wallingford for the FFA state convention. The simulator provides an opportunity for an "operator" to sit in the driver's seat of a mechanical harvester and/or forwarder and learn how to operate this high tech logging equipment through computer simulation. Justin Gundlach (left) and Kevin Massey (rear) show an FFA attendee how to use the controls. This is another great way to get the next generation interested in the logging industry.

Brennan Sheehan represented TIMPRO CT at Hartford's annual Ag Day on Wednesday, March 21, and met with Senator Edward M. Kennedy, JR (12th Senate District), a member of the Environment Commission. Senator Kennedy (left) has actively tried to help fix the Forest Products Advisory Board structure but will not seek reelection.

UPDATE: 2017 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER LUC POIRIER

Luc Poirier recently sent an email about his first year at Eastern Connecticut State University: "Freshman year has been great for me so far! Eastern is a great university and I am finding myself involved in quite a bit. I finished fall semester with a 4.0 GPA and made the Dean's List! I am involved in the environmental club, tennis and racquetball club, badminton club, photography club, among others too. I also still work at the University Bookstore, and I recently was hired with the Campus Activity Board, as the Marketing and Communications Assistant Coordinator, to plan and implement events for the student body. I took an amazing "Park Usership" class last semester which taught how the public affects parks and how park managers can counteract deterioration. I find environmental politics and policy most thought-provoking, and I plan to take a course or two in this field in upcoming semesters. I am looking forward to summer, and finding an internship to gain further experience."

*Photo above courtesy of Joan Nichols;
Photo right courtesy of Brennan Sheahan*



DC FLY-IN

By Kevin Massey



On Thursday, March 22, and Friday, March 23, despite a snowstorm and the necessity of an overnight stop, five delegates from Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association, attended the American Loggers Council Fly-In in Washington, DC. Joan Nichols, Bob Carrington, Henry Gundlach, Kyle Bruetsch, and I were impressed with the representation of the logging industry from around the country. Representatives from 33 states met with their corresponding legislators throughout the week. The American Loggers Council researched several major issues for us to discuss. The delegates

from Connecticut had appointments with three legislators. Congressman Joe Courtney, Senator Chris Murphy, and Senator Richard Blumenthal were all very responsive to the issues we have in the industry throughout the country. Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty unfortunately was not able to meet with the group. However we were able to drop off a handout with the issues at her office. Over all, it was a life changing experience, and it was interesting to hear how diverse the industry is around the country. I hope to attend this conference in the years to come.



Above, left to right: Kyle Breutsch, Bob Carrington, Kevin Massey, Joan Nichols, Henry Gundlach. Opposite: The TIMPRO group, along with two New York loggers, at Rep. Joe Courtney's office.

Photos courtesy of Eileen Townsend, The Northern Logger

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT STUDY DOCUMENTS BLACK BEAR DENSITY

A Genetic Mark-Recapture program completed in December 2016 estimated Connecticut's black bear population size at 427.3 ± 29.7 . This estimate is based on data collected in the summers of 2013 and 2014 and does not include cubs or juveniles that stay close to their mother. The study, carried out by Michael Evans, Graduate Research Assistant, and Dr. Tracy Rittenhouse, Assistant Professor, both at the University of Connecticut, Dept. of Natural Resources and the Environment, quantified how bear density differs in relation to human housing density.

The study documented a north-south gradient in bear density, with the highest densities along the Massachusetts border and bear density declining to zero at the southern extent of bear range. The study also provided strong evidence that bear density is elevated by the presence of houses within forests, such that bear density was highest in exurban or forested neighborhoods with 7-18 houses per KM squared.

Interestingly, although female bears always outnumber male bears in a given neighborhood, the proportion of males increased in neighborhoods with more houses.

The study looked at other density models, i.e. bear density based on land cover classified as forest or non-forest or classified based on the Wildlife-Urban Interface (WUI). The unexpected result was that the model with only human housing density provided the best explanation of bear density. In other words, mature forest in Connecticut is good habitat for black bears. As the bear population continues to grow, black bears will likely expand state-wide into mature forest. The primary factor influencing bear density in different parts of the state seems to be the density of human houses.

An isotope analysis of hair documented the way black bear diets differ based on mean housing density within each bear's home range. The analysis found a small yet significant increase in Carbon-13 as mean housing density increases meaning that bears may be eating more C4 plants such as corn and sugar that are extremely prevalent in human diets. A small yet significant increase in Nitrogen-15 as mean housing density increases may mean the bears have more meat in their diet.

For more information, you can access the University of Connecticut report through links on our website, tim-proct.org



This young black bear takes advantage of suburban amenities in northwest Connecticut. Photo courtesy of Hallie Metzger

NEWS YOU CAN USE

TIMPRO CT WORKSHOP AND ANNUAL MEETING

By Brennan Sheahan, President



TIMPRO CT put together another relevant and educational program for the forest products industry on Saturday, April 14th. The program focused on the importance of truck safety. Over 60 folks showed up at Tri-State Kenworth in Enfield, which so graciously offered their facility for this program. If we had planned accordingly, I am sure that another 60 folks would have shown up as well had we chosen any other Saturday than "Opening Day" of the 2018 Fishing Season.

Jay White, co-owner, of Tri-State Kenworth, introduced the event with an overview of their business and the vast services that they provide throughout CT. The team of Tri-State Kenworth displayed a dozen brand new trucks for us to look at while on break. The entire staff of Tri-State Kenworth really went the extra mile to help make this event successful.

Both Christopher Henry and Edward Brickner of Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration explained their role in keeping the highways safe. They spoke a lot about compliance and regulations pertaining to the trucking industry. They also gave us insight into the current ELD policy and just how difficult this regulation is for everyone involved. Our audience threw a few tough questions their way but the two gentlemen did a good job answering in the best way possible.

Brian Silun of New England Tractor Trailer Training School offered us a look into the current demand for CDL licensed drivers. Mr. Silun described the typical student that enters his program and was glad to see a group of true professionals sitting in front of him for a change. The need for highly motivated and disciplined students was very evident from his presentation.

The last section of our morning program was a presentation by Norm Dorval of Tracy/Driscoll Insurance. Mr. Dorval brought with him the burdensome news that the insurance rates continue to rise. He spoke about the Workers Comp issue and the difficulties in navigating this correctly to make small business owners compliant with the regulations.

After a delicious lunch provided by TIMPRO, we walked around under bright sunshine and looked at the entire new inventory of trucks on display.



Joe Cranouski then opened the afternoon program and generously made his time, truck, equipment, and trailer available. Offering his rig to be inspected by Lt. Donald Bridge, Jr. of the CT Department of Motor Vehicles Safety Division, he had spent the week prior to this event cleaning and inspecting every inch of his tractor trailer and low bed for this part of our program. Lt. Bridge went through the detailed process of what to expect and be required to do during a Motor Safety Vehicle stop. Lt. Bridge started with Joe's required paperwork and then went from the front of Joe's beautifully maintained tractor to the tail of his low-bed trailer that had a Timberjack skidder fastened to it.

Joe passed the inspection with flying colors!

Afterward, Lt. Bridge noted the attention to detail and the obvious commitment to safety Joe displayed with his equipment. Lt. Bridge found a couple of small things that could be fixed but everyone had a good time during this part of our program, including Joe.

Ron Hunley of Schaeffer Mfg. ended the event with an introduction of the product line that his company offers to the forest products industry. His demonstrations really drew in quite the crowd. The Schaeffer lubricants really do sell themselves. Ron did a good job of making sure that we were all aware that his products are out there and accessible through him.

The day was a big success!! A big thank you to everyone who participated and helped put this program together.

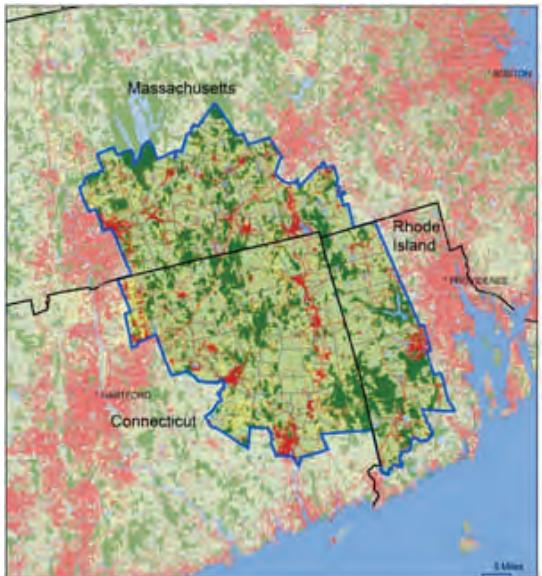


Page 6: Top - Lt. Donald Bridge; Lower - left to right: Chris Manville, Ronald Remeika, Lt. Bridge

*This Page: Top: Joe and Tammy Cranouski
Middle: Left - Brian Silun, Right - Craig Kirk:
Left - Jay White; Right - Ron Hunley
Opposite: Inspecting the trucks
Photos courtesy of Joan Nichols*



BITS AND CHOKERS



USDA'S SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND HERITAGE FOREST

The Southern New England Heritage Forest (SNEHF) is a 1.49 million-acre unfragmented forest corridor stretching along the Connecticut and Rhode Island border to the Quabbin Reservoir in Massachusetts. Bounded by more heavily urbanized areas, with more than one million nearby residents, the SNEHF has an astonishing 76% forest cover and offers one of the last viable wildlife corridors from southern to northern New England. The SNEHF is a green oasis and the last undeveloped region in the coastal sprawl from Boston to Washington, D.C.

Given SNEHF's significance, a conservation partnership was formed to bring additional funding to the region through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Known as a Regional Conservation Partnership Program

(RCPP), this innovative project and dedicated funding pool will help private landowners protect their woodlands in perpetuity.

The Last Green Valley, MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership, and the Northern Rhode Island Conservation District have announced the availability of new funds made possible by a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

This new program will provide technical and financial assistance to forest landowners to conserve their land by granting an easement to NRCS through the Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP). The HFRP is a voluntary conservation easement program for private non-industrial woodland landowners that is new to this region.

NRCS will pay the landowner 75% of the fair market value of the enrolled land in order to promote the recovery of endangered and threatened species, improve plant and animal biodiversity and enhance carbon sequestration. The specific focus of this RCPP is on important bird species and their habitats. NRCS will also pay for transaction costs including a title search, boundary survey, hazardous materials search and appraisal. NRCS will draft a restoration plan for the property that focuses on improving habitat for a specific bird species and will provide 75% of the funds for the first round of any restoration work that is required.

Towns within the

Southern New England Heritage Forest

Massachusetts: Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, Charlton, Douglas, Dudley, East Brookfield, Granby, Hampden, Holland, Leicester, Ludlow, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Oxford, Palmer, Spencer, Southbridge, Sturbridge, Sutton, Wales, Ware, Warren, Webster, West Brookfield, Wilbraham

Connecticut: Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Coventry, Eastford, Ellington, Franklin, Griswold, Hampton, Killingly, Lebanon, Lisbon, Mansfield, Norwich, Plainfield, Pomfret, Preston, Putnam, Scotland, Sprague, Stafford, Sterling, Somers, Thompson, Tolland, Union, Willington, Windham, Woodstock, Voluntown

Rhode Island: Burrillville, Coventry, Exeter, Foster, Gloucester, Hopkinton, Richmond, Scituate, West Greenwich

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

If you've ever spotted an unfamiliar insect in the woods and wondered what it is, there's now an app for that.

Specifically, Bugwood Apps is a digital encyclopedia of forest insect pests that you can download to your Android or iPhone. The photos present in this App are intended to help foresters, urban landscaping employees, or others working with trees recognize some of the common pest insects affecting trees in North America and understand their life cycles and how they damage trees. The information was drawn from books, websites, factsheets, and some original literature. This App is not a guide for specialists. In many groups, such as bark beetles and aphids, confirmation of species identity requires attention to details not visible in photos together with comparisons to other similar species and use of keys. Sources for further information (websites and articles) are given at the bottom of each species' page.

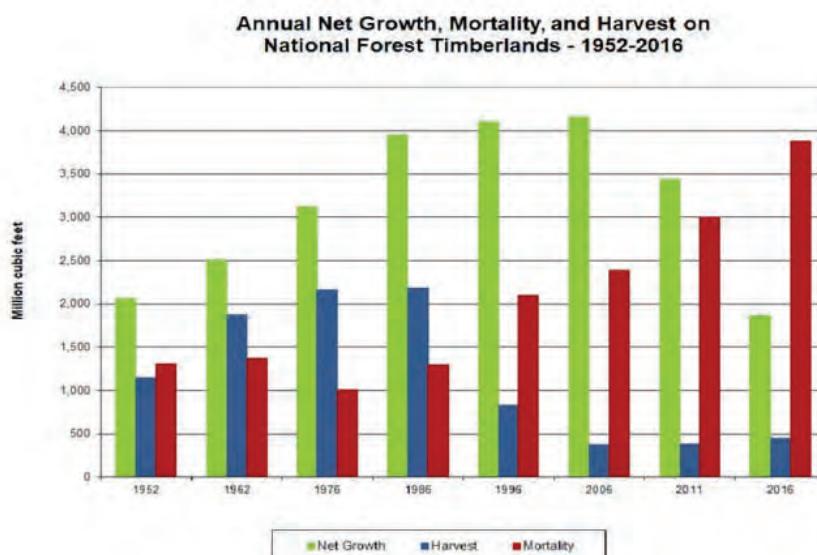
The app is one of several digital guides created by The Bugwood Network and Forestry Images Image Archive and Database Systems, The University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources and College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences - Dept. of Entomology.



HEALTHYFORESTS.ORG ISSUES REPORT

Forest mortality exceeded net growth on America's national forest timberlands in 2016, based on data publicly available from the U.S. Forest Service. Forest growth was 48 percent of mortality, while timber harvests were just 11 percent of what is dying annually. Forest mortality continues to trend upward. Last year the agency estimated there were 6.3 billion dead standing trees in just 11 Western states. These data indicate far more trees are dying due to neglect – catastrophic wildfire, insects, and disease – than are being harvested and utilized as wood products.

Scientists have found that active forest management can ease overcrowding, promote tree growth, and help make our forests more resilient to disturbances such as wildfire, insects, and disease. The lack of forest management and a resulting spike in mortality has limited our ability to capture carbon in wood products. Just one cubic meter of a wood product will store one ton of carbon monoxide.



Forest management is a choice. We can continue to allow our forests to die and succumb to catastrophic wildfire, insects, and disease. Or, we can manage our forests to promote forest health, resiliency and carbon sequestration, while producing renewable and environmentally-friendly products that meet our daily needs and support thousands of American jobs. For more information, <http://healthyforests.org/2018/05/data-forest-mortality-now-exceeds-growth-and-harvests-on-americas-national-forest-timberlands/>

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX



LA MARGINETTA

Halfway around the world from Connecticut, craftsmen rebuilt a tumble-down shelter lodge for hikers in the Italian Alps. The work was dedicated to the memory of Stanley Bleifeld (1924-1911), a Connecticut-based artist who loved exploring Tuscany. The Alpi Apuane is a small but extremely rugged range of mountains with elevations ranging from 1,200 m to nearly 2,000 m in height. So, it was not the easiest place for artisans to work. The project overseer, Giancarlo Buratti, said the wood used was locally harvested Italian chestnut.



Top: The shelter before construction.

Middle: Workmen hiked to site by mountain trails.

Lower Left: The new vaulted ceiling; **Right:** the finished shelter.

Photos courtesy of Nikki Bleifeld



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
Oneida, CT 06373

PROFESSIONAL TIMBER
PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

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
Oneida, CT 06373
860-948-0432
info@timproct.org

Articles, ideas, pictures
you'd like to see?

hallie.metzger@rcn.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018

www.timproct.org

Wednesday, August 8, Plant Science Day, 10 AM to 4 PM, CAES Lockwood Farm, 890 Evergreen Avenue, Hamden, CT

Saturday, September 22, Celebrating Agriculture, Log A Load & Game of Logging, 9 AM to 3 PM, Woodstock Fairgrounds, Rte 169, Woodstock, CT

LOG A LOAD FLYER INSIDE

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.