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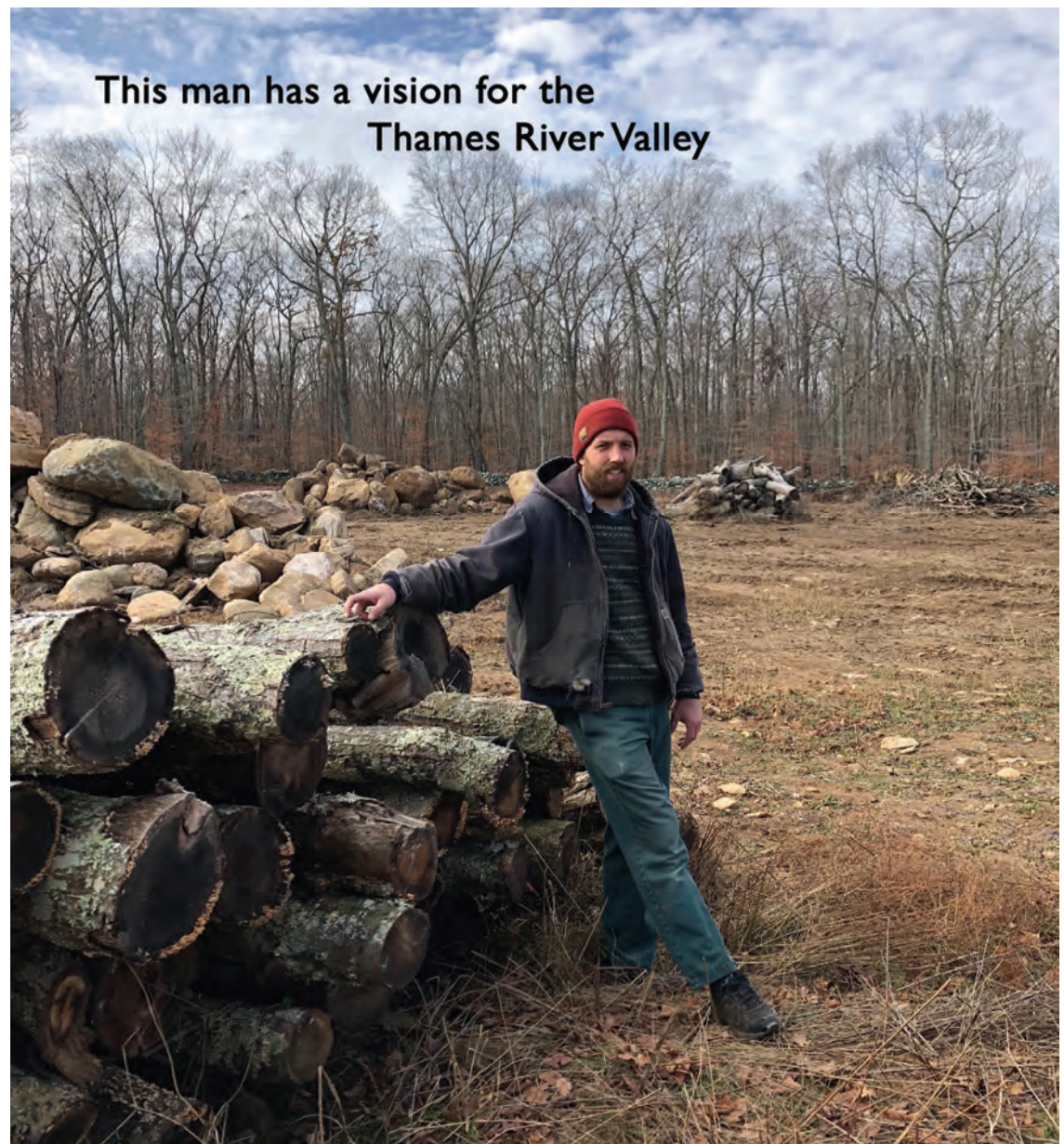
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The Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association, Inc. (TIMPRO CT) is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)6 non-profit corporation. Our mission is to enhance the image and understanding of the forest products industry throughout the state through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

TIMPRO CT NEWS



LOG A LOAD FUND DRIVE SETS A NEW RECORD!

On December 6, TIMPRO President Brennan Sheahan handed a check for \$4500 to Marissa Troiano, Development Coordinator of the Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC) in Hartford. That's \$500 more than last year. And we couldn't have done this without everyone who donated so generously to our Log A Load For Kids drive. TIMPRO CT is committed to supporting this important institution. Connecticut Children's Medical Center serves more than 15,000 children in primary care services, 55,000 in emergency care services, and 6000 in surgical services annually.

THANK YOU ALL!

Robert Beham, RJ Beham Forest Products LLC; Gerald Bellows, GB Firewood & Logging; Can-Am Trading; William Carver, Barberry Farm; Connecticut Mulch Distributors LLC; Carl Crane; Ferris Mulch Products; Gibson Hill Forest Products; Bill Girard, Custom Cut Hardwood; Heinz Gundlach; Hinman Lumber; Hull Forest Products Inc; Edward McGuire; Joan Nichols; Brian Park; William & Deborah Roach; Scott Rossi, Scotland Hardwoods; Donald Soucie Jr.; Leopold A Szczygiel; David Trykowski, Perma Treat Corp. And dozens of anonymous donors

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 REPRESENTED AT URBAN FORESTRY EVENT

By Kyle Breutsch

The 30th Annual Conference of Urban and Community Forestry along with the 14th Annual Forest Forum was held October 31 at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville. Chris Donnelly presented 35- and 20-year perspectives on Connecticut forestry and there were numerous breakout sessions dealing with invasives (gypsy moth, Emerald Ash Borer) and other threats to Connecticut's forests. Eric Hammerling, Executive Director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association addressed the need to protect the state's public lands. Randy Collins, Senior Associate at BETA, said the City of Hartford is looking into urban ecology projects together with Bushnell Park. Manning the TIMPRO booth meant I couldn't attend the sessions but I did get to talk to attendees who walked by. For example, the tree warden from Monroe took pamphlets to give to property owners who have a hard time parting with dead or dying trees for hazard removal. The event was a chance to tell people about our organization's role in maintaining Connecticut's forest health.



HEARTSAVER™ STANDARD FIRST AID & CPR



TIMPRO CT'S Heartsaver™ workshop was held October 30, 8:30 AM to 4 PM at Connecticut Forest and Park Association headquarters in Rockfall. The CEU session was well-attended. Following the introduction, participants practiced CPR on dummies and learned to maintain the proper rhythm - a technique that's harder than it looks!



THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

By Joan Nichols, Legislative Correspondent

Connecticut faces sweeping changes in 2019 as a result of the recent elections. In addition to a new Governor and Lieutenant Governor, we will have a new Commissioner for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

We don't know yet what to expect. Incoming Governor Ned Lamont has political experience at the local level but hasn't served in a statewide office. We're hopeful he will learn and understand our issues. He may be unbiased about us. It's an opportunity to educate him and help him learn. Also, his background as an entrepreneur could be an advantage in understanding the forest products industry and what it takes to successfully operate our varied businesses.

He has just appointed Katie Dykes, Chair of the Public Utility Regulatory Authority, as Commissioner of CT-DEEP. She was previously Deputy Commissioner at DEEP on the energy side. A graduate of Yale Law School, she has an impressive background in legal and environmental policy. Having grown up in the coal-producing state of West Virginia, she may bring a wide perspective on energy issues to her new post.

TIMPRO is going to be very aggressive in making sure we get a meeting with both Commissioner Dykes and whoever is appointed Commissioner of Agriculture. We want to reestablish and reaffirm our issues:

- Forest health
- Invasives
- Climate Change
- Woody biomass
- Favorable regulatory climate
- Funding to fill vacated staff positions at DEEP Forestry

Regarding biomass, there are renewed discussions on how to utilize all the "dead standing." There is a lack of markets for low grade material but a big need to dispose of it. No one is sure what to do. It would be better for us if each source of renewable energy were in its own silo. But the state has created one "pot" of credits for renewable energy and shifted the balance of distribution to wind and solar at the very time when we have so much wood to dispose of.

We will also be staunch defenders of PA 490. Without it we would lose our working land base. So we will join any coalition that forms to protect this law.

We also want to enact a 60-day grace period for forest practitioners who have let their certificates lapse.

This is the third year in a row we've attempted to get the language fixed for licenses and for the grace period. We've gotten close two years in a row but failed to see it through to a final vote. Our hope is that it will finally happen in this year's Long Session, January to May.

Finally, it's time to get that legislative fix for the composition of the Forest Practices Advisory Board. We have been trying for three years to guarantee that at least one position is reserved for an active member of the forest products industry.

GOVERNOR-ELECT NED LAMONT FACES STAFFING CHALLENGES



Edward Miner Lamont Jr., after graduating from Yale, entered the cable television industry managing the start-up of Cablevision's operation in Fairfield County, Connecticut. In 1984, he founded his own cable television company, Campus Televideo providing satellite and telecommunication services to colleges and universities across the country. He is the chair of Lamont Digital Systems, a telecommunications firm that invests in new media startups.

Forestry isn't the only sector presenting challenges to incoming Governor Ned Lamont. While the Forestry Division has presciently filled three vacancies, Associated Press reports that a large number of veteran employees will retire in the coming years taking with them a wealth of experience and adding to the pension burden.

In her reporting, AP's Susan Haigh quoted a written memo from Democratic State Comptroller Kevin Lembo: "The state must prepare for significant immediate and long-term challenges, and that includes the threat of a substantial retirement surge. The ramifications could be considerable to the stability of the state's pension funds, health plan and its workforce."

The state has more than \$21 billion in unfunded future pension obligations in addition to unfunded liabilities in the retiree health care program. The Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth recently estimated fixed costs, including primarily interest on debt, Medicaid, and public employee retirement benefits, will consume 53 percent of the state budget by 2020. Lembo's office is

reviewing how mass retirements will affect efforts to reduce Connecticut's unfunded pension and retiree health care obligations. He said state agencies will need to prepare for the retirements by developing "new talent and institutional knowledge" in the coming years.

Lacey Rose, a spokeswoman for Lamont's transition team, said, "The Governor-elect's administration will work closely with agency and department leadership to ensure that this is a workforce transition and not a workforce disruption" adding that Lamont's administration will take "deliberate steps to retain valuable institutional knowledge and develop hiring plans that attract the best and the brightest to public service."

The Office of Policy and Management has estimated that roughly 40 percent of existing staff could potentially be retiring by 2022. That's when various cost-saving measures negotiated in a 2017 labor concession deal between the state and unionized state workers take effect, such as cost of living adjustments to pensions.

CT-DEEP FILLS FOREST PRACTICES ACT FORESTER VACANCY

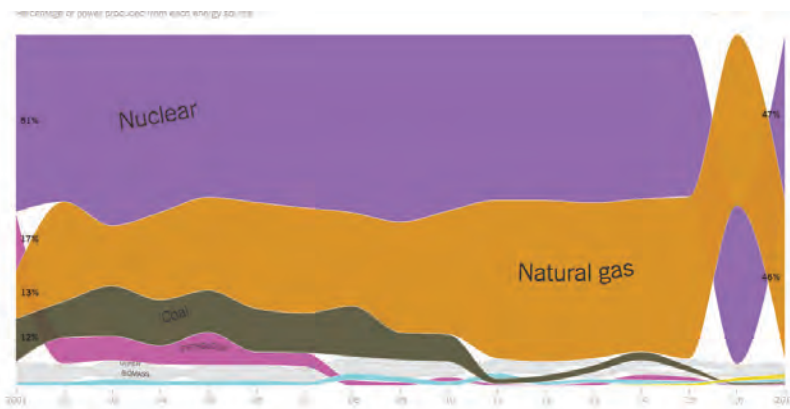
A bright spot in the hiring situation: Nick Zito has been appointed Forest Practices Act Forester. While he may be new to this position, he's definitely not new to Connecticut forestry. He's hardly exaggerating when he says, "I've worked for almost everyone in the state."

Since graduating from UConn in 2010, he has been: a seasonal worker for Dr. Jeff Ward at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; a procurement forester for Peter Marlow Forest Products, LLC; and a forester for the Regional Water Authority. And this is only a partial list! His experiences include public and private spheres. He also lived briefly in Maine before returning to Connecticut as a Resources Conservation Partnership Program forester and then working on an Eversource reclamation project for Burns and McDonald. He has now come almost full circle back to Connecticut and to DEEP.

"My position will be to implement the Forest Practices Act," he explained. "That ranges anywhere from investigating complaints and compliance issues to overseeing licensure issues – including proctoring exams. In short, I'll be out there in the field making sure people are doing what they're supposed to do."



BIOMASS IN CONNECTICUT'S ENERGY MIX



This diagram illustrates the change in Connecticut's energy mix from 2001-2017. Biomass, down at the bottom, is such a small amount that it doesn't have a percentage assigned. Nuclear energy dominates despite a brief surge of natural gas. Coal has virtually disappeared and the state's last remaining coal-fired plant, in Bridgeport Harbor, will close in 2021. New state standards mandate that by 2030 utilities get 40% of the energy they sell to consumers from renewable resources. Nadja Popovich, *New York Times*, 12/24/2018

The renewable energy focus these days is certainly on solar and wind sources. But Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Agricultural Programs Director for the non-profit CTRCD organization (Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area), sees untapped biomass opportunities here – for the right applicants.

Set up 50 years ago as a federal non-profit, CTRCD administers the Connecticut Farm Energy Program launched in 2009. The Farm Energy Program began as a pilot program in eastern Connecticut but was state-wide by 2011. CTRCD helps agricultural producers and rural

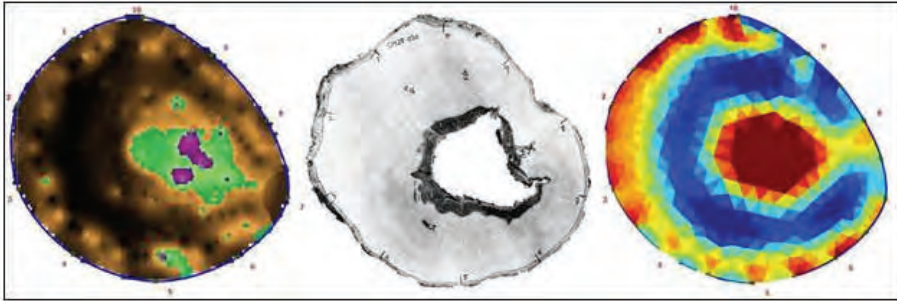
small business with an agriculture focus apply to USDA Rural Development's REAP (Rural Energy for America) program. This program is a competitive process with offerings such as guaranteed loans and grants up to 25% of eligible project costs for promotion of renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvement to agricultural enterprises and rural small businesses that qualify.

"When we first began this program, there were few farms applying to REAP," said Fargo-Johnson, "There is a lot of paperwork involved. Since 2010, we've been able to help farms and agriculturally based rural small businesses apply. Our technical assistance is free of charge. By now we've secured over \$2.6 million in grants and made \$1.4 million in loans. Collectively that's about \$4 million in support for renewable energy and energy efficiency or over \$16 million in leveraged project costs." The grants and loans cover a wide range of projects from improving refrigeration systems on dairy farms to raising efficiency in the fan systems that heat and cool greenhouses.

Energy sources for these projects can range from biomass to solar to wind -- even to compost. "New Hampshire and Vermont have been successful funding woody biomass projects but the grants and loans in Connecticut have gone primarily to solar and energy efficiency projects. Solar has an advantage with prices coming down for panels and with warranties covering them for 20-25 years. For farms we work with, solar also gets a tax credit and a REAP grant. The farms may be able to secure funding from their local utility under the ZREC program that pays them for the carbon offset value of the system. Net metering also plays an important role by allowing them to shift energy to the central grid on high energy days and draw energy back on rainy or cloudy days," Fargo-Johnson explained.

"Conservation first, then renewable," she summed up.

CAES DEVELOPS WAY TO MEASURE STORED CARBON IN TREES



A sonic tomogram (left) and an electric resistance tomogram (right) flank photograph of the corresponding sugar maple stem-disk.

A team of Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Station researchers led by Dr. Robert Marra has developed a method to measure the carbon content of living trees without cutting them down. Using a form of tomography, a measuring process analogous to CAT scans, they determined the presence and volume of in-

ternal decay and cavities in more than 60 mature sugar maples, yellow birches, and American beeches in northwest Connecticut. They then used data from the scans to measure the amount of carbon stored in the trees as well as the amount lost due to internal decay. "We believe ours is a potentially transformative methodology that can be applied at much larger scales, with the ultimate goal of more accurate carbon accounting," said Dr. Marra.

A WOOD CHIP FIX FOR ICY ROADS?

The Canadian Broadcasting Company reported in November that the City of Saskatoon in Canada is testing out an environmentally friendly way to make roads less slick this winter. Inspired by cities in Switzerland and Quebec, city workers will be using wood chips on icy roads in the North Industrial Area rather than sand and salt. The city's roadways director Brandon Harris told CBC Radio's *Saskatoon Morning* that the city wants to make sure there are no problem with the chips. "We have to make sure the traction is as good as sand, and we have to make sure we won't be plugging up catch basins," said Harris. "The last thing we want is for spring to roll around and us to have a whole problem with getting rid of water." Harris said wood chips are better for the environment than salt and tend to cause less issues in the spring. "In the spring, you don't get the dust," he said. "Most of that organic material will just wash away with normal runoff. Sand stays in place." Every year, the city generates mountains of wood chips from activities like stump grinding with fallen trees. Harris said it just makes sense to use a resource the city already has. The city plans to inform drivers well before the wood chips are used on roads. If the pilot program is successful, the city may expand the project to other areas of the city





BITS AND CHOKERS

TIMPRO CT MEMBERS AT GAME OF LOGGING

A crowd gathered for Connecticut's Game of Logging competition Saturday, September 22, at the Woodstock Fair Grounds in Woodstock in conjunction with Celebrating Agriculture.

Left, upper and lower: Bill Carver and Darryl Rudgers watch—and add a bit of body English as Marshall Jamison initiates the first cut.

Right, upper and lower: Then it was Darryl's turn. Jerry Bellows with grandson Isaac Perez after winning Third Prize.





Above, left to right: GOL Instructor Bill Girard, Jerry Bellows, Marshall Jamison, Jeremy Bellows, Bill Carver, Darryl Rudgers, Jim Bellows, Chris Rudgers, and GOL Board of Directors member Bill Lindloff.

Below: The Game of Logging final scores. Jeremy Bellows and Bill Carver (First and Second respectively) will represent the Southern New England region at the national competition June 2019 in Pennsylvania. The 2017 First and Second place winners, Paul Berk and Jerry Bellows, will also attend.

NAME	BIG STUMP	S. CUT	SPRG POLE	BORE CUT	PREC. STMP.	BUCK- ING	ADJ. SCORE	FELL- ING	LMB	TOTAL
Bill Carver	35	80	40	19	60	30	90		100	454/594
Jim Bellows	0	85	0	49	45	0	50		30	259/322
Marshall Jamison	35	70	35	29	40	0	80		50	339/369
Chris Rudgers	35	90	0	36	42	0	100		60	363/508
Jeremy Bellows	50	100	50	31	55	30	50		100	416/606
Darryl Rudgers	35	75	45	9	50	30	90		70	404/489
Jerry Bellows	20	95	30	20	60	25	80		90	454/562

Photos courtesy of Joan Nichols

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

KEVIN BLACKER HAS A VISION – THE THAMES RIVER VALLEY REBORN

Kevin Blacker's enthusiasm and the breadth of his interests can be dizzying as he shifts effortlessly from one project to another. But there's no mistaking the single-minded focus of all this TIMPRO CT member's activities: Bringing the Thames River and rail transport traffic back to life in a state that once excelled at both. But the more you know about his background, the more his range of interests makes sense.

"I run a landscaping business with my father in Noank," Blacker started. "I've also operated a decent size farm for 10 years. I rent the land and raise 100 acres of hay to sell, plus I have beef cows. For the past few years, I've been developing a market for rocks and boulders I dig up to be used fortifying coastal and riverine areas against flooding and rises in sea level due to climate change."

Working to expand his business with rocks and boulders, Blacker became aware of how land ownership in Connecticut structures opportunities. "For a year and a half, I've been trying to get the attention of the Kraft Group that owns land along the Thames River," he explained. "The Kraft Group owns the Patriots football team, International Forest Products, and Rand Whitney, which has a location in Montville. The Kraft Group is also closely associated with Rock Tenn, owner of the Smurfit-Stone container-board factory and the adjacent deconstructed AES Thames coal-fired power plant along the Thames River."

"I've been trying to get the Kraft Group interested in the Thames River region. They'd be good allies in the fight to make the policy, regulation, and attitude changes necessary to bring about increased utilization of the Thames River for bulk freight transport. It's going to take some big players. I've been pitching the Kraft Group on everything I can think of, from exporting logs/lumber out of New London to collaborating with local Native American tribes already involved in the forest products market, to constructing and operating a bio-mass power plant along the Thames River. I can't gauge their interest yet but I have a feeling persistence is going to pay off."

Blacker sees the Mohegan and Mashantucket tribes as potential major allies. The tribes want to build a third casino now that revenue from their two existing casinos has been hit by the new Massachusetts casino. But Blacker is urging them to look at bulk freight transport opportunities on the Thames River and forest products instead: "Both tribes own and control large amounts of unused property along the Thames Riverfront. They also both own large amounts of forestland that's not being managed to its full potential. The Mohegans are already in the wood market- a wise diversification move made a number of years ago. I'm trying to promote talks between the tribes and the Kraft Group to stimulate action along the Thames River."



Key to Blacker's vision is revitalizing the State Pier in New London to support a diverse array of uses. Outgoing Governor Malloy announced a \$15 million dollar bond issue for improvements. The US Department of Transportation has also given Connecticut a \$12.8 million dollar Tiger (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Grant for rail upgrades. State Pier is the only major port from the mid-Atlantic to Maine without bridge obstructions or hurricane barriers that can restrict ships from entering, which makes the port very attractive to the expanding wind energy sector. The synergy of these wise government investments will vastly improve export/import options in the Thames River region.

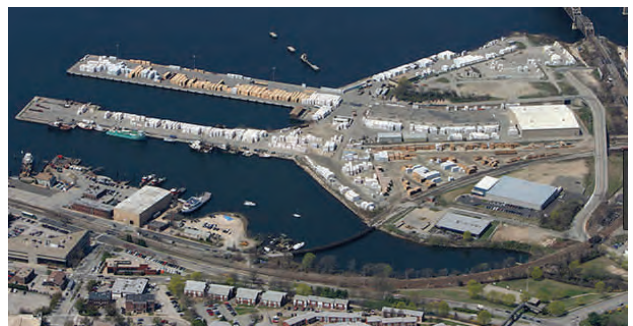
However, Blacker expressed concern about the State's search for a new operator of the port. He wants to make sure Connecticut's forestry and agriculture industries have access to all opportunities and aren't muscled out of the way by bigger, stronger industries. He is not happy with the lack of transparency of the Port Authority's search for a new operator of the port which is being conducted behind closed doors in "Executive Session." To bring deliberations into the open he has filed a lawsuit in New London Superior Court seeking non-monetary damages.

Noting that incoming Governor Lamont put together transition teams without representation from aquaculture or forestry, Blacker is undeterred. "Ned Lamont met with farmers during his campaign and put out an agricultural policy. He specifically spoke about agriculture at length during the transition team meeting where over 300 of the state's leaders were gathered. I am very confident that, with help from organizations like the CT Farm Bureau and TIMPRO CT, Mr. Lamont is going to be a great ally to the state's farmers, foresters, and loggers," he said.

The Connecticut Farm Bureau has been "an incredible resource for me," Blacker said. "Representative Joe Courtney has been out to my farm to meet with me. Chris Murphy's office has been in touch with me. I've written to hundreds and hundreds of leaders and legislators. I write to people and seek out our similar interests and try to figure out a way to work together."

In short, Kevin Blacker is the very definition of "thinking outside the box."

The Port of New London's 2 berths, 2 warehouses, and 20 acres open laydown acres. As noted above, it is the only major port from the mid-Atlantic to Maine without bridge obstructions or hurricane barriers that can restrict ships from entering.





PO Box 508
Oneco, CT 06373

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019

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

CHECK OUR ONLINE CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS AND CEU WORKSHOPS

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.