

The Cutting Edge



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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

2019 LOG A LOAD DONATION

On December 19, TIMPRO President Brennan Sheahan handed a check for \$6250 to Jessica Swirson, Assistant Manager, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, in Hartford.

Accepting our donation, Ms Swirson said, "Here at Connecticut Children's we are so grateful for our partnership and the amazing efforts that you put towards our hospital. This year you raised a record high and we already can't wait for next year's event!"

The 2019 donation is our highest ever and marks our increasing commitment to the communities in which we work. In fact, the total since our first donation in 2007 is now over \$40,000 – an impressive accomplishment for a small organization such as ours.

Of course, our Log A Load success would not be possible without our dedicated members and other volunteers, such as our Game of Logging Teams. Read more in this issue for our list of donors and for some unusual donations that helped fill our coffers.



The Connecticut Farm Bureau Association is another community organization we support.

Photo courtesy of Scott Organek Associate Vice President, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, Connecticut Children's Medical Center Foundation

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.

2019 LOG A LOAD DONORS

Cash Donations totaled \$ 4,658.75. Thank you:

R J Beham Forest Products, Ashley Falls, Mass
Robert Carrington, Northfield Ct
Can-Am Trading & Logistics LLC, Franklin Ct
CT Timber Producers Assoc., Oneco Ct
GB Firewood & Logging DBA, Sterling, CT
Jim Gillespie, Sharon ,CT
Great Mountain Forest, Norfolk CT
Henry Gundlach, Norfolk Ct
Hull Forest Products Inc, Pomfret Center, CT
J&J Lumber, Dover Plains NY
Jim Kelly, West Haven, CT
Brian Parks, Preston, CT
Perma Treat Corperation, Durham, CT
Donald P Souice Jr, Coventry, RI
Leopold & Beverly Szczygiel, Lebanon, CT

Donated Raffle Items brought in \$1,341.25. Thank you:

Bobs Landclearing, Northfield , CT
Clyde Breakell, Goshen, CT
Julie Fontaine, Sterling, CT
Mike Hinman, Burlington, CT
Lock Stock & Barrel, Bethany, CT
New Generation Logging, Danielson, CT
Joan Nichols, N. Franklin, CT

TIMPRO TEAMWORK



One particular donation to the Log A Load campaign is a perfect example of TIMPRO teamwork.

The donation grew out of work Jody Bronson, Forest Manager at Great Mountain Forest (GMF), was coordinating with Henry Gundlach of South Norfolk Lumber Company. During a recent pre-salvage of 36,000 BF white ash trees to stem the spread of the Emerald ash borer at GMF, Forest Manager Jody Bronson marked an additional 4,000 BF of black cherry and sugar maple within the ash stand for a Log A Load for Kids donation.

TIMPRO CT members Kyle Breutsch and Kevin Massey, employees of J & J Logging Company, donated their time to do the logging. Henry Gundlach of South Norfolk Lumber Company then donated the use of his truck to transport the logs to TIMPRO CT member Robert Beham of R. J. Beham,

Ashley Falls, Massachusetts. Beham bought the load for \$2000 and added a \$200 donation of his own. In all, the donations from all participants could be valued at \$2,208.

The result? A perfect match all around and a big win for the Connecticut Children's Medical Center! Perhaps other TIMPRO members might consider a similar donation for the 2020 Log A Load campaign!

This page: above left courtesy of Sandy Walczyk; truck, courtesy of Henry Gundlach.





MORE TIMPRO TEAMWORK:

TIMPRO CT has long supported the Log A Load campaign through the Game of Logging. This year the team wore t-shirts bearing the Log A Load logo. Above, the 2017 team proudly displayed the banner.



Kevin Radawiec was the winner of this bench, a Log A Load drawing prize crafted from black walnut and donated by TIMPRO Board member Mike Hinman of Hinman Lumber (Supreme Industries). Kevin learned about the Log A Load event from his friend TIMPRO member Marshall Jamison. Kevin has gifted the bench to his mother and we know the whole family will enjoy this special prize.

Photos this page courtesy of Joan Nichols

2019 SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE: ALYSSA HOTCHKISS



Alyssa Hotchkiss, 2019 Scholarship Winner, had this to say about starting school: "My first semester of college has been full of ups and downs, but I am thankful that I found my way to SUNY Cobleskill.

The amount of hands on experience is amazing, as I am already in major related courses where we spawn fish, sein ponds, and learn the proper care for a variety of organisms.

Fortunately, I was awarded a work study position in the school's fish hatchery to help ensure that the system runs smoothly. Working alongside the hatchery manager, Brent Lehman, has allowed me to get my feet wet and experience the aquaculture industry first-hand.

During my free-time, I am a proud member of both the Dairy Cattle Club and the American Fisheries Society since my love of cows is almost as strong as my love for fish. Now that I've gotten acclimated to college life, I can't wait to see what my next semester will bring!"

Photo courtesy of Alyssa Hotchkiss

IT'S 2020 SCHOLARSHIP TIME.

Please reach out to schools in your area and encourage young people to apply for our two TIMPRO CT scholarships.

The application form is available on our website, www.timproct.org.

The deadline is Friday, May 29, 2020.

2019 SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE: ADAM LUCHON

2019 Scholarship Winner Adam Luchon sent this report: "College has been going great so far! I love it! All my courses have all been very enjoyable so far.

My favorite course by far is forest vegetation, where we learn many different plant species, their scientific names, and their ecological and economic significance. All the forestry related courses, including forest vegetation, have been more or less an advanced review of what I learned throughout high school, but I have been enjoying every minute of it.

I also joined a few clubs/organizations. I joined the Society of American Foresters, the School of Forest Resources Community Council, and the UMaine Woodsmen's Team. The UMaine Woodsmen's Team has been my favorite so far. We practice and compete in timbersports competitions across the region. We even went to the University of New Brunswick to compete. Finals are approaching, but I'm not too worried about them. As of now, I'm doing very well in all my classes.



I have been thinking that I may minor in Forest Ecosystem Science, to make the most out of my college education. I'm still majoring in Forestry though, and I am never changing my major. Once again, I'm very grateful that I received the TIMPRO scholarship, and I have been making the most out of my college education so far."

Photos courtesy of Adam Luchon

FIRE FIGHTER: 2013 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER KIMI SEKORSKI



Perhaps none of our scholarship recipients comes close to 2013 winner Kimi Sekorski for sheer courage and stick-to-it gumption as she pursues a career fighting forest fires - but with lots of interesting side journeys on the way!

Here is her latest report:

"Hi! I'm actually on my way back to CT right now. I'll be home this winter to tie up a few loose ends and work a little bit more as a meat cutter at a family friend's slaughter house before I make the permanent move out west.

I actually managed to stay out of California this year so that was pretty nice. I just finished up my season. I

worked on a Type 6 engine and filled in with hand crews in the area as needed. We had a pretty quiet season in Oregon, as well as most of the country. Just a lot of little fires during lightning bursts.

I was able to complete my type 5 fire incident commander training which is awesome.

I will be back in John Day, Oregon next year probably April or May. I just accepted a position at the ranger district where I've been a seasonal permanent firefighter working as a Senior firefighter on a type 6 engine.

I'm definitely still training to rappel at some point, since getting this permanent job it would not make sense to leave the district any time soon.

But a summer long detail on a rappel crew is still in the realm of possibilities.

Thanks for checking in!"



Top left, hosing flames

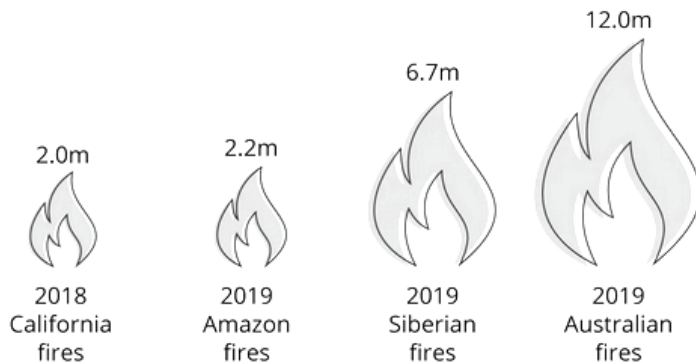
Top and below right: Taking a break

All photos courtesy of Kimi Sekorski

FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE— THE ABORIGINAL WAY

The Shocking Size of the Australian Wildfires

Acres burned in recent major wildfire events



Sources: CalFire/Russian Federal Forestry Agency via BBC, New York Times



statista

While Kimi has been honing her skills as a professional firefighter, Australia's volunteer forces have been overwhelmed by wildfires engulfing the southeastern sector. But the northern sector has been relatively untouched, according to New York Times correspondent Thomas Fuller.

Much of the current problem, he reported, stems from attitudes European colonizers brought with them. As Europeans took control of the country, they banned the traditional prescribed burning practiced by the indigenous peoples. Jeremy Russell-Smith, a bush-fire expert at Charles Darwin

University, noted this quashing of traditional fire techniques happened not only in Australia, but also in North and South America, Asia and Africa.

Many forests then were thinner than those that exist now and were more resistant to hot-burning fires. Early explorers described the landscape as a series of gardens, and they reported seeing near constant trails of smoke from small fires across the landscape. Suppressing fire created dense forests with thick underbrush ready to explode in flames in Australia's increasingly dry hot climate. Those flames have now consumed about 15.6 million acres.

Victor Cooper, a former forest ranger in northern Australia, lit a wad of shaggy bark to demonstrate the type of fire that burns at temperatures low enough to avoid damage to sensitive plants that are crucial food for animals.

The preventive fires, Cooper said, should trickle, not rage. They must be timed according to air temperature, wind conditions and humidity, as well as the life cycles of plants. Northern Aboriginal traditions revolve around the monsoon, with land burned patch by patch as the wet season gives way to the dry.

"We don't have a fear of fire," said Cooper, who burns regularly around his stilt house nestled in woodlands. "We know the earlier we burn, the more protection we have."

In the north, wrote Fuller, "... the ancient approach tends to be more comprehensive. Indigenous people, using precisely timed, low-intensity fires, burn their properties the way a suburban homeowner might use a lawn mower."

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

GREEN JOBS FORECAST FOR OUR FUTURE



Project Learning Tree (PLT), the award-winning environmental education initiative of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), has developed new supplementary education materials to help youth discover careers in sustainable forestry and conservation.

Green Jobs: Exploring Forest Careers includes four hands-on instructional activities to help youth research different forest-sector jobs, and practice managing and monitoring forest resources. Anyone can use this resource with learners aged 12–25 in settings ranging from community youth programs and school classrooms, to college and career prep, to field trips and forest tours. This unit is available through a PLT in-person professional development workshop offered

by our network of state coordinators or can be purchased from Shop.plt.org. An online course is also being developed. It includes a self-assessment for youth to analyze their leadership and people-oriented skills, as well as their technical skills in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), along with career connections that can help any worker in today's job market.

Green jobs represent one of the fastest growing and changing segments of the global economy. At the same time, today's youth are seeking rewarding careers that help us move toward more sustainable lifestyles and greener economies. *Green Jobs: Exploring Forest Careers* inspires youth to become lifelong forest supporters and conservation leaders and gets youth excited about green careers as they explore forest-related jobs. Employers are looking for workers who can communicate and collaborate, and who are creative leaders. "Some of the most exciting and greenest jobs involve forests. These jobs benefit forests and ensure that the forest products we depend on are sustainably sourced," said Kathy Abusow, President and CEO of SFI Inc. "At SFI, we advance sustainability through forest-focused collaborations and we are thrilled to engage our accredited partners and diverse professional networks in growing pathways to green careers with this latest resource from Project Learning Tree."



ALC DC FLY-IN: LOGGERS WORKING FOR LOGGERS

The annual American Loggers Council (ALC) DC fly-In and Board Meeting will take place April 2 to April 4. Meeting with legislators, ALC advocates for policies that support logging jobs and the communities that rely on them. One such initiative would help Americans transition to more efficient wood heaters thus reducing air pollution. In December, US Senators Tom Carper (D-Del) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) introduced the Wood Heaters Emissions Reduction Act (S. 3779) to establish a grant program within the Environmental Protection Agency to subsidize replacement of older inefficient residential wood heaters with newer cleaner-burning models. The bill would support communities reliant on woody biomass.

Another bill would consider unrefined forestry products such as wood fiber and logs an agricultural commodity. ALC recently delivered letters to US Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue requesting the same relief for loggers affected by the recent tariff wars as had been granted to the farming sector. "Timber products are a perishable commodity susceptible to decay, insects, disease, and fire – a perishable commodity that [takes] 40 years or more to grow as a crop. Forest products are not treated equitably with agriculture," said Rex Storm, Interim Executive Vice President of Associated Oregon Loggers.

THERE ARE STILL SOME AWESOME WOODEN TOY TRUCKS LEFT!
GET ONE TO DONATE TO OUR 2020 LOG A LOAD CAMPAIGN.

DONATE \$50 FOR THIS HANDCRAFTED WOODEN "BIG RIG."



DONATE \$40 FOR THIS HANDCRAFTED WOODEN "LITTLE LOGGER"



USE THE DONATION FORM BELOW.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SEND ME THE "BIG RIG." (NUMBER) _____ SEND ME THE "LITTLE LOGGER." (NUMBER) _____

MY CHECK FOR _____ IS ENCLOSED.

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

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



PO Box 508
Oneco, CT 06373

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020

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

Thursday, Feb 27, Forest Practices Advisory Board, 9 AM-Noon
Tuesday, March 18, Ag Day at the Capitol, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
a snow date of Thursday, March 19, 2020 has been reserved.
Thursday, April 2 to Saturday, April 4, April ALC FLY-IN
Friday, May 29, Scholarship application deadline

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.