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# *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 our members.

## TIMPRO CT NEWS

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### A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Our profession is no stranger to social distancing. And PPE – Personal Protective Equipment – is our norm, not the exception.

But this pandemic has extended social distancing to all kinds of activities and areas.

As Brennan Sheahan's letter makes clear, we are still feeling our way as the ripple effects of the Covid-19 pandemic extend outward.

♦The DC Fly-In is just one of the many events that have been cancelled or postponed. Game of Logging? No word as of press time.

♦CEU classes and meetings are all virtual for the time being. Many of us are using Zoom or other digital platforms for the first time ever. See p.6 for information from Nicholas Zito on how choose and register your CEUs. Our website, [www.timproct.org](http://www.timproct.org) regularly updates options with direct links for registration

♦Public events such as Plant Science Day and Celebrating Agriculture have also moved online. Organizations such as ours are invited to submit videos – a whole new technological world for some of us to explore.

♦The Connecticut Legislative Assembly's Long Session will probably open in February, according to our Legislative Representative Joan Nichols. She hopes we'll finally be able to wrap up unfinished business from the last two sessions.

♦Even as we struggle to adjust to new working conditions, our communities need help too. Please support our Log A Load campaign to fund the Children's Miracle Network Hospital in Hartford. There's a flyer in this newsletter for donating cash or items. You can also donate using the toy truck offer inside the back cover.

Check our website for CEU opportunities and updates on other events.

Stay well!

Hallie Metzger, Editor

#### 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).

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Members:

The present times are indeed strange, tumultuous, and unpredictable! Our great country has succumbed to the COVID-19 pandemic since mid-March 2020 and our “normal living” situation has been completely altered as a result of our governing bodies efforts to mitigate the circumstances. Over 180,000 American lives have been lost to this virus and we are all deeply saddened by this tragedy. Whatever our own personal beliefs and insight into this pandemic might be, we are all faced with some level of restriction on our individual freedoms. We are all coping with this “change” in our own way and trying to keep a level of normalcy within our daily lives. With faith in our resolve as countrymen, neighbors, parents and siblings we will ascend to the top of this upheaval and once again breathe the clean air of our freedoms and find comfort in our own health.

I’ve spoken with many members over the last 5 months and I can report that our forest products community is still marching forward. We have seen a drop in pricing for most of our forest products, but demand is still strong. The supply chain has been severely disrupted since March. Home renovations are up due to the *shelter in place* orders throughout our country. This has created a shortage of lumber because many sawmills had to temporarily shut down or lay off some workers during the initial concern of overwhelming our medical system. The forest products sector, for the most part, was considered essential to the functioning of our society. This was a little dicey during the first few weeks of the forced shut-downs.

It was good to know that our industry plays an important role in the supply chain of so many necessary products. Items that have always been considered a given in our daily lives had completely disappeared off the store shelves: Toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, and tissues became unavailable for months. The importance of maintaining a steady supply of wood products to the manufacturers of these materials became essential. The need to feed a steady supply of wood products into our energy supply sector became essential. Many other forest products and commodities (e.g., pallets & corrugated packaging) became essential.

We are now over 24 weeks into the pandemic with lots of uncertainty still ahead. The upcoming Presidential election in November continues to create political unrest throughout our Nation. This election and the nasty political posturing will continue to stir all aspects of our lives. The forest products industry, along with all the other industries, will have to continue to navigate the very rough seas ahead of us until Washington D.C. finds a patch of calm waters. Let’s hope that this patch of calm waters is a lengthy one and not just the eye of a class 5 hurricane.

Take care and stay well

Brennan Sheahan, President

Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association

Meet our 2020 Scholarship winners, Danielle Gorat and Michael Hanlon. Graduates of Housatonic Valley Regional High School, both share a love of the outdoors nurtured by camping, fishing, and hiking from childhood on. But these are strange times for starting a college education. Due to the pandemic, Michael will be taking online classes from home for the first semester. But Danielle will be at the SUNY Cobleskill campus. And even these plans could have changed by the time this issue goes to press. We wish our scholarship winners the best in these extraordinary times!



Michael Hanlon, Jr. is an Eagle Scout, a world traveler, and more. A 2020 graduate of Housatonic Regional Valley High School, he plans to get a 2-year associate degree in natural resources at Northwestern Connecticut Community College followed by a business degree.

"I have always enjoyed the outdoors and value our beautiful country," he wrote in his application essay. Participating in many local field service projects deepened his love of the outdoors and honed his skills. At West Hill Pond, he helped improve storm runoff channels by building a retention pond to hold runoff. His team also cleared debris from hiking trails and cut back invasive plants. For his Eagle Scout project, he helped restore the visitor's sign, repaint the bench, and landscape the area around it in the center of Falls Village. He and his team also spent several weeks replacing rotten wood in the visitor's center and repainting the bench there.

Michael draws inspiration from family camping trips to state and national parks. He has gone winter camping in the Adirondacks but his favorite trip was to the Great Smokey National Park in the summer of 2016. "This is where I knew my career choice," he said. He hopes for a career in conservation resource management working with a federal or state agency. His high school coursework included activities with the CT DEEP Divisions of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Law Enforcement. He was able to observe best practices at Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area, the Great Mountain Forest, and Sharon Audubon along with meeting numerous local environmental professionals.

David Moran, Housatonic Valley FFA advisor and Scout Master, praised Michael's drive and interest in academic and public service activities. Noting his landscape restoration work for Falls Village and other volunteer projects, he concluded, "Michael has a solid reputation in the school, too, as a general all-around good human being."

*Photograph courtesy of Michael Hanlon Jr*



Danielle “Dani” Gorat is no stranger to TIMPRO. A graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School, she prepared for an Envirothon with TIMPRO Board member Joan Nichols. Her team won the 2019 Connecticut State championship. At the national competition in Raleigh, she competed against teams from all over the USA as well as teams from China.

All Dani’s activities grow out of her deep interest in natural resource issues. Chapter Secretary this past year for FFA, she participated in Forestry Career Development and Natural Career Development, and Prepared Public Speaking events – all while serving as senior field hockey Captain. Committed to excellence, she also has garnered many awards including the 2019 Chapter Star Award in Agriscience and the 2019 Environmental and Natural Resources Entrepreneurship Award as well as awards for field hockey.

David Moran, her FFA and Envirothon advisor, praised Dani’s outstanding efforts to tell the FFA Chapter story through outreach to newspapers, radio, and social media. “This is a significant contribution and responsibility,” he noted, “as she acts as the face of our chapter.” He highlighted her organizational skills enabling a three-week fundraising effort to raise over \$70,000 for her student activity fund and local food banks. She also organized a chapter banquet and awards program for over 300 people from the school and community.

A thread that runs through Dani’s studies as well as her personal life is her love of fishing. “One of the reasons I want to pursue a degree in natural resources is because I enjoy fishing and hiking a lot. In the area where I live there are a lot of different spots to go fishing. Whether it’s bass fishing on a nice hot summer evening or fishing for trout in the spring or fall on the great Housatonic River, I love it all,” she said.

Dani also likes to hike. She recently scaled Mt. Tom with her friends and hikes trails in nearby White Memorial Foundation. She enjoys hunting, especially hunting deer with a bow and arrow. At home, she tends to her four-year old cats Panda and Ivory and three dogs – Chance and Hunter, both nine-year olds, and two-year old Pluto.

Starting August 17 at SUNY Cobleskill, Dani plans to study wildlife management and become an environmental conservation officer. “I want people to understand why wildlife management and conservation are so important.”



*Photograph courtesy of Danielle Gorat*

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

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### HOW TO TAKE AND REGISTER CEUs

Nicholas Zito, CT-DEEP Division of Forestry, advises that there are numerous online options that will be accepted for CEUs. He sent this memo [condensed below\*] to all forest practitioners for whom he had email addresses. His office will also accept notes taken from archived webinars. "Our biggest issue," he noted, "is [those] who do not use a computer. We suggest they talk to their significant other, family members, neighbors, etc. to set them up with webinars. If they cannot achieve any of those, they can reach out to me on an individual basis." If you have more questions about credit for webinars contact Nick Zito at 860-424-3837 or [Nicholas.zito@ct.gov](mailto:Nicholas.zito@ct.gov).

**LIVE WEBINARS:** You can register for free on-line webinars at Cornell University's website [www.ForestConnect.info](http://www.ForestConnect.info). You will get 1.0 CT CEU for each 1 hour webinar. They are usually offered at both noon and at 7:00 PM on the scheduled day. Noontime slots usually fill up fast so plan on signing in a half hour in advance. Those at 7 PM usually don't fill up and are easier to access seat wise.

Once you register, you will receive e-mail links for upcoming webinars. When you sign up for credits, you will receive an email attendance notice. If there is no pre-registration option, you can only receive proof of attendance via e-mail during the live webinar. When you receive email notification of a scheduled webinar, you need to sign in the day it is offered.

**ARCHIVED (PAST) WEBINARS:** If listening to archived (past) webinar, you must prove your attendance by taking and submitting notes while you listen with 1) the date and title of the archived webinar and 2) the date on which you listened. Be sure to write your name on the notes you submit. To access archives: [www.ForestConnect.com](http://www.ForestConnect.com); click on "ForestConnect Webinars," then "webinar recordings" on the page shown.

**OTHER OPTIONS:** Options right now are limited but will pick up again in late September/early October and again in March. You can take receive credit for First Aid and CPR: Go to [www.ct.gov/deep/forestry](http://www.ct.gov/deep/forestry), click on "Forest Practitioner Certification" and scroll down to "CEU opportunities for Forest practitioners." For still more options, access these websites. They offer 1 hour webinars worth 1.0 CT CEU.

PLEASE NOTE: Choose archived webinar topics related to forestry/logging in the Northeastern United States.

[USFS Northern Research Station Webinars](https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/webcasts/) (https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/webcasts/)

[Purdue University](https://www.purdue.edu/fnr/extension/) (https://www.purdue.edu/fnr/extension/)

[Forestry & Natural Resources Webinar Portal](http://www.forestrywebinars.net/webinars) (http://www.forestrywebinars.net/webinars)

[PA Forest Webseminar Center](https://extension.psu.edu/forests-and-wildlife/forest-management/see-all-forest-management/shopby/webinars) https://extension.psu.edu/forests-and-wildlife/forest-management/see-all-forest-management/shopby/webinars)

*\*EDITORS NOTE: See the full memo and links on our website. HM*

## CAES DISEASE AND PEST UPDATE

CAES (The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station) reports that Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) on American beeches (*Fagus grandifolia*) has been found at locations in Guilford, Hamden and New Haven, CT, following its first appearance in Connecticut in 2019 in lower Fairfield County.

This disease, which can kill trees within seven years of detection, was first discovered in 2012 in Ohio, followed in subsequent years by detections in Pennsylvania, western New York, and Ontario, Canada.



The causal agent is a newly described nematode, *Litylenchus crenataemccannii*. The nematode appears to cause disease on only *F. grandifolia* and *F. sylvatica* (European beech). Scientists at CAES have joined forces with researchers in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Ontario (Canada), and at USDA-ARS to study disease development, transmission, and management. The symptoms, best observed from below looking up into the canopy, are dark striping between leaf veins.

In further news, Dr. Jeff Ward, CAES Chief Scientist Department of Forestry & Horticulture, emailed, "You can tell the readers of *The Cutting Edge* that I don't think gypsy moth is going to be a problem this year, but have cc'ed Dr. Victoria Smith who supervises the egg mass counts and would know the true answer. We see ash trees dying everywhere and I imagine that they will continue to die until (unless) the biological controls begin to be effective.

Dr. Victoria Smith, CAES Deputy State Entomologist, responded, "-- we expect very little impact, if any from gypsy moth in 2020; egg masses are few to non-existent! The biggest impact on CT forests is emerald ash borer. We have found that ashes west of the CT river are dead, and those east of the river are dying rapidly and will soon be dead. Terrible news, but not unexpected. Ticks were out in force all winter, due to mild conditions and no snow."





## Bits and Chokers

### OLD THEORY ABOUT NEW ENGLAND FORESTS UPENDED



It's long been believed that Native Americans used fire to create a diverse landscape of woodlands, grasslands, heathlands, and shrublands in New England. This belief supported a widespread use of prescribed fire for conservation.

But a new study in *Nature Sustainability* by Wyatt Oswald, Emerson College, and colleagues indicates that openlands actually arose *following* European contact, deforestation, and agricultural expansion. Native people foraged, hunted, and fished with little landclearing.

Archaeologists, ecologists, and paleoclimatologists at Harvard, Emerson College and elsewhere, focused on the coast from Long Island to Cape Cod and the nearby islands of Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, Block Island, and Naushon—areas that historically supported the greatest densities of Native Americans in New England and today are home to the highest concentrations of rare habitats in the region, including sandplain grasslands, heathlands, and pitch pine and scrub oak forests.

"For decades, there's been a growing popularization of the interpretation that, for millennia, Native Americans actively managed landscapes—clearing and burning forests, for example - to support horticulture, improve habitat for important plant and animal resources, and procure wood resources," said study co-author David Foster, Director of the Harvard Forest at Harvard University. This active management is said to have created an array of open-land habitats and enhanced regional biodiversity.

But, Foster said, "Our data show a landscape that was dominated by intact, old-growth forests that were shaped largely by regional climate for thousands of years before European arrival. Forest clearance and open grasslands and shrublands only appeared with widespread agriculture during the European colonial period, within the last few hundred years," adds Oswald.

Foster notes that the unique elements of biodiversity initiated through historical activities can be encouraged through analogous management practices today, such as grazing. "Protected wildland reserves would preserve interior forest species that were abundant before European settlement," he noted. "Lands managed through the diversified farming and forestry practices that created openlands and young forests during the colonial period would support another important suite of rare plants and animals."



**The State of Connecticut continues to revise and reexamine energy policies that affect us. Please read and respond to your local legislators.**



## **The Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2020**

*Introduced by Senator's Bruce, Cabaniss, Graham, & Whitehouse*

Agricultural practices and land management decisions play a key role in the discussion surrounding global greenhouse emissions and climate policy. The agriculture and forestry sectors hold the potential to serve in a critical climate solution. At scale, agriculture and land use practices can sequester carbon at as low as \$10 per tCO<sub>2</sub>e, making it the most cost-effective carbon sequestration method currently available.

Carbon credits are traded in both compliance and voluntary markets globally. Traditionally, compliance markets have seen more transaction volume of the two. But more recently, as companies and individual actors increasingly seek to offset emissions, activity in voluntary carbon markets has increased exponentially.<sup>1</sup> Correspondingly, the volume of credits generated through forestry and land use activities is growing rapidly, increasing 244% between 2016 and 2018, more than 12 times the increase of other credit types.<sup>2</sup>

However, for producers and private forest owners, access to carbon markets is often too difficult and complicated to achieve wide adoption. Further, the significant demand for land-based climate solutions cannot presently be fully incentivized by government as political and fiscal constraints in Washington limit the federal government's ability to be the sole leader in promoting conservation and sustainable land use practices. Thus, there is an inherent need for legislation that outlines the appropriate federal role – one that will complement existing efforts, make it easier for producers to participate, and allow the private sector to flourish in meeting market-based demands for carbon credits.

**ABOUT THE BILL:** The Growing Climate Solutions Act creates a certification program at USDA to help solve technical entry barriers to farmer and forest landowner participation in carbon credit markets. These issues – including access to reliable information about markets and access to qualified technical assistance providers and credit protocol standards – have limited both landowner participation and the adoption of practices to help reduce the costs of developing carbon credits.

To address this, bill establishes a *Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Higher Compliance Programs* through which USDA will be able to provide transparency, legitimacy, and informal endorsement of third party verifier and technical service providers that help private landowners generate carbon credits through a variety of agriculture and forestry related practices. The USDA certification program will ensure that these assistance providers have agriculture and forestry expertise, which is lacking in the current marketplace. As part of the program, USDA will administer a new website, which will serve as a “one stop shop” of information and resources for producers and foresters who are interested in participating in carbon markets.

Through the program, USDA will help connect landowners to private sector actors who can assist the landowners in implementing the protocols and measuring the climate value of their sustainable practices. Third party entities, certified under the program, will be able to claim the status of a “USDA Certified” technical assistance provider or verifier. The USDA certification lowers barriers to entry in the

<sup>1</sup> *Forest Trends, “Demand for Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Drives Voluntary Carbon Markets to a Seven-Year High,”* December 9, 2019. Accessed March 6, 2020.

## DAISUGI: THE ULTIMATE IN SOCIAL DISTANCING?



Imagine trees growing one on top of another.

That is Daisugi, a forestry technique practiced in Japan from the 14<sup>th</sup> century on to grow highly-prized Kitayama Cedar with an economical use of land.

Traditionally, the smooth, aesthetically pleasing pieces of wood were used as the main pillars in an alcove called the *toko-noma* where families can pray and meditate. These alcoves became popular in the 15th century during the Muromachi period, to display artistic items like ikebana or scrolls. They feature prominently in Kyoto's tea houses. It's said that Kyoto's preeminent tea master, Sen-no-rikyu, demanded perfection in the Kitayama cedar during the 16th century. His choices prompted the development of daisugi to meet the demand for high-quality cedar.

Though the use of Kitayama cedar in these traditional alcoves is declining as Japanese architecture develops, this highly prized

wood is still used for everything from chopsticks to furniture.

Daisugi involves heavily trimming the plant so only the straightest shoots to grow.

Every few years, careful cutting leaves only the top boughs that remain knot-free. After about 20 years, the massive shoots can be harvested as exceptional Kitayama lumber.

Daisugi-grown cedars actually grow at an accelerated rate compared to soil-planted and produces lumber that is 40% more flexible and 100% stronger than the usual soil-grown lumber.

Kitayama tree stocks can support dozens of straight shoots at a time. "Mother trees" up to 300 years old can still be found in some regions of Japan, and some of them have trunks about 15 meters in diameter.

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

**Please check our new website  
for CEU opportunities and other events.  
WWW.TIMPROCT.ORG**

##### **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.