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Cover Photo: Frank Cervo

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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

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

In this issue we welcome our two newly appointed service foresters, Dave Beers, Western sector, and Frank Cervo, Eastern sector. As you can see from Cervo's cover photo, he is ready to take on any outdoor challenge, in the woods or not. To learn more about Beers and Cervo, read their profiles in this issue.

There's further cause to celebrate. With Andrea Urbano already on board for the Central sector, the Service Forestry Program is fully staffed and ready to help private landowners.

In other Connecticut news, TIMPRO is representing the Connecticut forest products industry in two ongoing legislative initiatives:

- ♦ The draft 2020 Connecticut Forest Action Plan (CFAP)
- ♦ The Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)

Both the CFAP and GC3 will have major impacts on how we operate.

As the pandemic lockdown continues, our advocacy on your behalf has mostly shifted online although in October the Yankee chapter of the Society of American Foresters did hold an outdoor, socially distanced event at Yale-Meyers Forest. The chief topic was how to counter proforestation misinformation about the best way to sequester carbon. There's a guide to the scientific terminology on page 8.

The Yankee SAF chapter has now established an outreach group to develop strategies that support sustainable forestry. The group includes a Media and Social Outreach working group developing a website and other online ways to get our message across.

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.

TIMPRO PRESIDENT BRENNAN SHEAHAN'S MESSAGE TO THE GC3

The Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association has deep concerns regarding the findings of the Forests Sub-Group – Governor's Council on Climate Change (F-GC3). We want to thank all of those that have taken the time and energy to look heavily into this most important subject but we feel that the overall message of No-Net-Loss and proforestation leads the State of CT away from the decades of sound forest management practices and principles that have been implemented throughout our State.

The proforestation movement's purpose is to grow existing forest to their ecological potential (Old Growth Forests). This movement is emotionally based and lacks the scientific background to support its findings. This is not the answer to climate change. The concept of multiple-use has been the guiding principle for managing the woodlands of CT for many decades and the results of this management principle have been working.

Carbon storage and sequestration should be considered as an additional element of multiple-use forest management in Connecticut. This along with water, recreation, wildlife, and timber, being equally considered, constitutes sound management principles. Old growth forests are large carbon sinks but no longer capture or sequester large amounts of carbon. Second growth forest can sequester an enormous amount of carbon along with the vast amounts of carbon that is being stored within the forest soils and root systems. If we want to reduce our impact of CO2 emissions than we should maintain a diversified forest structure with various age classes throughout our forest ecosystems.

The idea of creating more passive management acreage for the benefit of carbon sequestration is flawed. The State of CT actively manages a small percentage of their lands already. Limiting this percentage even more would be detrimental to the forest products community that depends on this resource for jobs and the feeding of their families. Creating incentives for the wealthy to embrace passive management creates disparity amongst those that are not as financially well off. Implementing policy that restricts the individual rights of property owners from making decisions based on their needs is draconian in nature.

The F-GC3 sub group has formulated a plan for lowering our carbon footprint with respect to the future management of CT's forest both public and private. Much of this plan will be funded by bonding, increase of fees, conveyance fees, development fees, carbon tax and an increase in the CT general sales tax. All of this amounts to higher costs of living and a financial burden on the tax payers of CT.

Forests are increasingly seen in policy circles as a critical part of the solution to climate change, and that's certainly the case for Connecticut, where the carbon absorbed by our forests and stored in trees, soils and harvested wood products will be essential for reaching our state's legislated goal of 45% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The reality is that the State of CT has already been doing a great job of managing our forests both publicly and privately. We have good policies in place already, such as the PA490 Program, that emphasizes the continuous protection of maintaining a forested landscape. There are hundreds of non-profits and land trust organizations actively acquiring development rights and purchasing land throughout our State. Additionally, the State created the Forest Practices Act in 1991 which requires licensed forest practitioners to continuously educate themselves regarding the quality of forest practices within our State. This high standard maintained within our licensed forest practitioners results in ongoing educational learning opportunities. We are the boots-on-the-ground workforce actively managing and protecting this resource for generations to come.

Let's not try to fix what doesn't appear to be broken.

The Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association would be more than willing to offer advice or be consulted regarding the future management of our forest resource. A policy of this importance and long-lasting management implications should have representation from within the industry.

MEET OUR NEW SERVICE FORESTERS

Dave Beers, newly appointed Western District Service Forester, represents a milestone: For the first time in 6 years the CT-DEEP Department of Forestry is fully staffed.

Filling the position formerly held by Larry Rousseau, Beers is no stranger to the region. He has been a consulting forester for Connwood for seventeen years and a consulting forester in northwestern Connecticut even longer. Describing the present COVID-related circumstances as “surreal,” Beers noted that he is used to working from home and has only had to go into the office a couple of times to retrieve files.

Beers’ appointment brings to end a stretch when there were two service foresters covering the whole state and, for a time, only one. It was impossible for the program to respond in a timely fashion to landowners’ requests for help. The biggest challenge Beers sees now is letting people know the Service Forester Program is not only back but also, being fully staffed, able to give more time to individual forest landowners.

Beers notes he’ll be approaching his job differently from Rousseau as there is so much more technology available for him to use these days. “I like to map and walk a property before I meet with the landowner,” he said. “Western Connecticut contains a lot of well-off landowners who commute or have second homes. They are not necessarily looking for timber revenue but I want to open their eyes to the wonderfully diverse and interesting woods they have both during our woods walk and with the follow-up forest evaluation, recommendations, and map.”



While a consultant, Beers met with a private forest landowner to describe a management plan.

About those markets: Beers has seen lots of ups and downs. They were strong for low-grade wood when oil was high. Now, with oil and natural gas prices low, that market is weak. This weakness deprives many forest landowners of an economic incentive to carry out silvicultural operations that would improve their forests. “It would be great to have a strong low-grade market, but at least there are some great government incentive programs available to encourage good forestry,” he said.

This weakness isn’t likely to change soon. Unfortunately, Chinese tariffs were a serious blow to timber markets two years ago. Markets were slowly improving before the pandemic and, hopefully, will begin improving again soon. “But it might take a while to get back to the timber prices of three years ago,” Beers suggested.

“My biggest hope,” Beers concluded, “is that landowners get to know, appreciate, and enjoy what’s ‘behind the house’.”

Frank Cervo, our new Eastern District Service Forester, may have “jumped across the pond” from Long Island years ago but he is now thoroughly established here.

After graduating with a BS from the University of Connecticut, he worked in the renewable energy field where he began to learn about forestry. This exposure got him thinking about a career that would have a positive impact on the environment but also a productive influence on industry. And that search led him to the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, now the Yale Forest School within the Yale School of the Environment, from which he graduated with a Master of Forestry in 2019.



“There are a lot of unique circumstances working with private landowners that make it exciting but also challenging,” Cervo said of his new position. His first job after graduating from Yale was at Yale-Myers forest in eastern Connecticut. With 8,000 contiguous acres, he had large areas in which to tailor silvicultural operations for a variety of goals. “But this is very different from working with parcels of fifty acres or less. Everything has to be scaled down,” he added. “One of the pieces of my training is thinking about diversity and how to maximize that. On a small-scale property, it might not make sense to have small plots of different age classes, for example. You have to make more judgment calls on what you can do. Maybe you establish two age classes instead of five.”

Cervo sees his field transformed and aided by the many new tools available. “One of my favorites is Lidar with hill shade,” he said. “Lidar mapping is amazing. With a couple of clicks, I can pull up a map of a landowner’s property and see the whole detailed topography. Sometimes you can even see vernal pools. So I have an idea of the topography and layout before I even meet the landowner. That way I can help the landowner see and understand the property. It opens peoples’ eyes to what’s there.”

Another resource for Cervo is the Division of Wildlife Natural Diversity database with statewide GIS data on species of concern. “I always check before I go out to a property,” he said, “if there are any rare or threatened species or potential for them on that property. People often don’t realize that endangered species don’t always need huge blocks of land. Even small properties can play a part in protecting threatened and endangered species in the state. This fact highlights for landowners how important their properties are.”

Cervo says he is always out in the woods even when “off the clock.” He and his wife Alexa, a Connecticut native, spend their time out of doors hiking, backpacking, and skiing. “I’m very lucky and very grateful to be here,” he summed up. “With this job, I’m helping do the right thing about the planet but also doing the right thing for the economy.”

Photo above courtesy of Frank Cervo

Photo opposite page courtesy of Hallie Metzger

OCTOBER YANKEE SAF MEETING AT YALE-MEYERS

The Yankee SAF chapter met October 27 at Yale-Meyers Forest with masks and social-distancing. In addition to in-person attendance, people could attend via Zoom. Following a review of the Massacoe incident, participants broke into working groups to address different aspects of the challenges facing forestry in Connecticut, including how to respond to Proforestation's claims about the forest products industry, silviculture, and carbon sequestration.

The SAF chapter, along with the New England Forestry Foundation, will develop strategies for dealing with future clashes. In the works is a website, "Foresters for Forests," and Media outreach. In a letter to the GC3, the Yale Forest School stated, "Proforestation does not account for system level carbon dynamics related to forest products and misleads us to conclude that its adoption would be the most carbon positive of all forest policy choices." The School also deplored what it called, "...outdated caricatures of forestry professionals" that "are detrimental and threaten the resiliency of our state's forests."



Photo courtesy of Brennan Sheahan

PA 490 TAX VALUES REVISED



In November 23, Christopher Martin, Director, Division of Forestry, detailed revised values for PA 490 properties. The new recommended Forest Land value for town-wide property tax evaluations occurring after October 1, 2020 is \$390/acre, an increase from \$240 in 2015 and \$130/acre in 2010.

The Act requires updating values every 5 years based on new information from 3 sources:

- ◆ From the USDA: Land area of forest, number and volume of live trees, average annual net growth (new growth-minus removals...aka harvest)
- ◆ Data from the most recent five years Southern New England Stumpage Price Reports
- ◆ The increases reflect the changes in Connecticut forest stands.

For the past five years and several years preceding, annual tree growth has exceeded annual removals by more than five times. This has resulted in net average annual growth from 127 board feet per acre to 221 board feet per acre per USDA Forest Service FIA data

Although a complete accounting of statewide tree mortality due to recent gypsy moth outbreaks and continued emerald Ash borer impacts may not be fully accounted for yet, we can expect continued increases in net statewide tree growth barring a major natural catastrophe such as a hurricane.



Without our Game of Logging and live Log A Load raffle, we were not able to raise the usual generous donation to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center, a member of the Children's Miracle Network. But thanks to our supporters, we will still be able to make a donation. We will report the final tally in the next newsletter.

We are grateful to the donors who made our success possible in these difficult times.

2020 Log A Load Donors

Robert Beham. RJ Beham Forest Products, LLC

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TIMPRO CT



Bits and Chokers

ABC's OF CARBON SEQUESTRATION

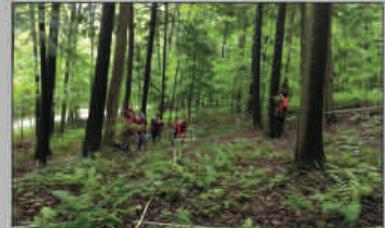
An issue in both the GC3 and CFAP is how best to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and sequester it. Some argue for greater use of wood as an enduring material - "live" or "living" storage - versus the Proforestration argument that old growth forests are the best storage and logging in state forests should be greatly reduced if not banned outright. Writing to the GC3, The Yale Forest School stated, "Storage of carbon in forests and/or wood products are climate mitigation components, and wood can also serve as a fossil fuel reduction mechanism." Further: "Woody biomass generated in forest management activities can bring additional climate benefits by either storing carbon in forest products and/or replacing fossil-based counterparts."

See this illustrated ABC from UMassAmherst. Note that carbon can be sequestered in several pools: Living or dead woody mass above ground, the roots below ground, and the soil.



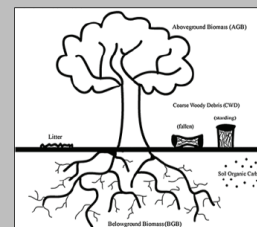
Key term | Biomass

Weight, measured in tons or mega grams
Calculated by basic geometry



Key term | Carbon Pool

Part of the forest that **stores** carbon
It can accumulate or lose C over time



Key term | Carbon Storage

Amount of C retained in a forest pool



Photo: Anthony Olivares
Forest Carbon: an essential natural solution to climate change

Key term | Carbon Sequestration

PROCESS of removing C from atmosphere for use in photosynthesis
Results in maintenance and growth of plants & trees



Photo: VT Land Trust, David Middleton
Forest Carbon: an essential natural solution to climate change

A NOVEL WAY TO TACKLE THE EFFECTS OF ACID RAIN

Kevin Blacker is not afraid of new ideas. And that lack of fear has led him to think about ways to improve the productivity of forests and farms.

The key, Blacker says, is undoing the damage caused by acid rain.

Acid rain is the legacy of uncontrolled pollution, chiefly from coal and fossil fuel- burning plants in the Midwest carried east by prevailing winds. The waste gases contain sulfur and nitrogen oxides that combine with atmospheric water to form acids. The acidified rain then changes the pH of the soil it soaks into. The acidified soil hampers uptake of nutrients by the root systems of crops and trees and reduces growth.

Connecticut soils are naturally acidic to start with. But, for example, soil pH needs to be above 5.5 for plants to access nitrogen. Acid rain can also cause calcium to leach out of the soil and be replaced by potentially harmful aluminum. While environmental regulation has reduced the level of acid rain, the loss of soil calcium is still a threat to certain tree species, especially sugar maple.



Kevin Blacker, center, with his father David.

Photo courtesy of Kevin Blacker



With a major in soil science from University of New Hampshire, Blacker started thinking about how to remedy the problem while also fulfilling some important environmental goals. "There's lots of interest in carbon sequestration at the same time we want to maintain forest cover," he explained. "But if you correct soil pH back to normal and encourage growth, you could take more carbon out of the atmosphere and build soil organic matter while also supporting silvicultural operations and the timber products industry."

From this realization about the impact of acid rain, Blacker began thinking about how he could actually correct acidified soils. One way might be to spray lime onto the soil. "Dry lime flows like a liquid," he said. "I don't know if you could actually spread it with a 1 1/2" fire hose. You could also spread wood ashes from biomass plants." Having spread lime on his own property, he knows it can be done.

"I want to get the state interested. It's a novel idea. And I like to take a novel idea and put it out there," Kevin concluded.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

WIND PATH FORESTS

Trees clean the air and beautify our surroundings. Urban communities especially promote the planting and care of street trees for physical and emotional comfort. But Seoul, South Korea envisions something much more ambitious – an entire urban landscape plan using trees not just to clean the air but to circulate it in specific patterns that reduce the urban heat island effect – in other words, to function as a giant air conditioner.

This new landscape will be a “wind path forest,” as reported by journalist Sarah Wray in the October issue of “Cities Today.”



The plan is based on the city's topography surrounded by several steep mountain ranges. Trees will be placed close together along rivers and roads in such a way as to funnel the air that flows down the mountain sides. The result will be wind paths that clean and cool air generated at night from Gwanaksan Mountain and Bukhansan Mountain. The Wind Forests will direct this cool clean air into the center of Seoul. Wray reports that the Seoul Metropolitan Government started creating this new kind of urban forest in November in collaboration with the Korea Forest Service. The Wind Forest project will be completed by the end of 2021.

The plan calls for three types of forests.

- 1) Wind-generating forests, including species such as pine trees and maple trees, will direct the fresh air from the forest to flow towards the city center.
- 2) Connecting forests will feature air-purifying plants, such as wild cherry trees and oak trees, along a path linking the forest to the city center – the idea is that the leaves will absorb particulate matter while the branches and tree trunks will block moving particulate matter.
- 3) Smaller scattered ‘forests’ will be planted in the city center, including parks, green rooftops, and living walls.

This is not only an ambitious plan but also an expensive one costing US \$15 million.

Seoul believes wind forests could help to reduce the average summer temperature in the downtown area by up to seven degrees Celsius. The Korea Forest Service is also creating similar urban forests elsewhere in the country. The idea of using forests in such a proactive design is a growing trend as cities seek ways to fight climate change and improve quality of life – a problem that has become even more pressing amid COVID-19 as more people have been meeting up outdoors and lockdowns have highlighted the importance of green space for mental and physical health.

American cities are eager to try this, too. Boston issued a US \$500,000 request for proposals (RFP) to design its first urban forest plan, which will develop strategies that promote the growth and protection of its urban canopy over the next 20 years. In August 2019, Los Angeles named its first Forest Officer, a new post to oversee the city's goal of planting 90,000 trees by 2021.

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PO Box 508
Oneco, CT 06373

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021

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.