

CONNECTICUT



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The Cutting Edge



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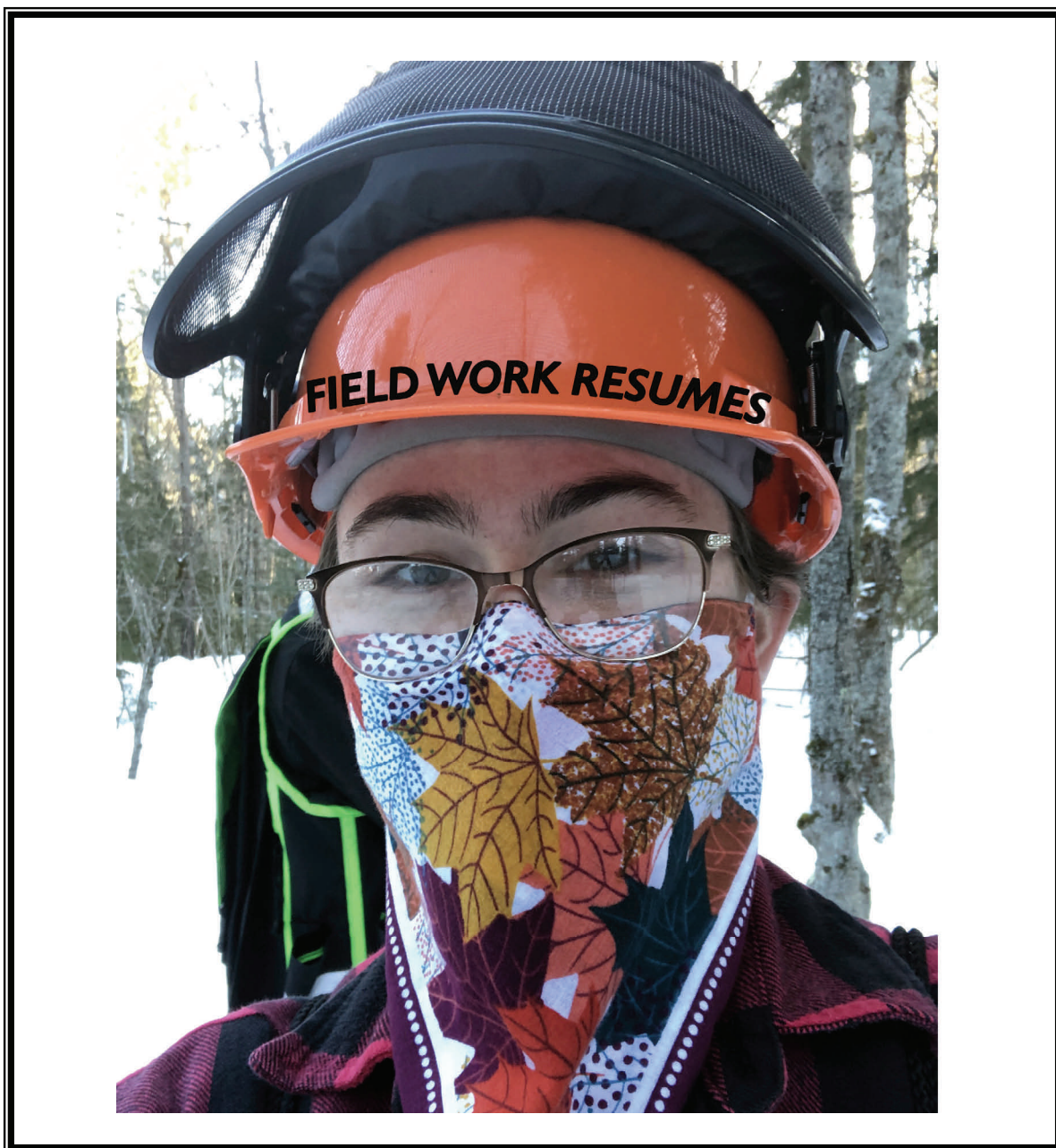
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The Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association, Inc. (TIMPRO CT) is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)6 non-profit corporation. Our mission is to enhance the image and understanding of the forest products industry throughout the state through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

TIMPRO CT NEWS

UPDATE ON MASSACOE

Deep snow lay over Massacoe State Forest this January when logger Bill Seitz drove his truck onto the landing area. Barely visible were the firewood and logs that John Noack of J&K Logging in East Hartland had carefully stacked before a protest halted his work this past June. Of the originally awarded 124,092 BF and 421 cords tallied within the 81 acres timber sale, Bill Seitz's cleanup work yielded 12,000 BF and 45 cords of firewood, mostly oak. All of it went to local sawmills and firewood manufacturers.

Bill's work took about 1 week to complete from the time his Timberjack 1010 Forwarder was dropped onto the landing site in Simsbury - probably 3 more days than J&K Logging had worked before having this timber sale halted by CT DEEP Forestry back in June. Regrettably this timber sale has been "paused" indefinitely by CT DEEP due to political pressure. Unfortunately, the carefully planned and much needed forest management work might never be implemented.



"It was quiet," Seitz recalled. "One or two cars slowed down. A neighbor stopped by and said, 'The job should have been done years ago'." Seitz added, "John did a clean job. There were one or two maple but most of the wood was oak."

Before Seitz even drove to the spot, CT-DEEP Forester Gerard Milne, mindful of potential protests, reached out to adjacent property owners. "I went in ahead and knocked on doors. I had a flyer prepared. No one expressed concerns but one person said, 'I wondered why [the operation] stopped. It needed it.' Also, DEEP sent emails about the upcoming salvage to everyone who registered at the July Zoom hearing."

Massacoe State Forest Management Objectives: Continue the management goals of James Goodwin; favor white pine on suitable sites and create a diversity of species and age classes by using even and uneven-aged management. White and red oaks will be favored and retained. The James Goodwin Forest has been under sustainable forest management for over 100 years.

Photos courtesy of Brennan Sheahan

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.

REBECCA DURINICK 2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

I am a Junior at Unity College double majoring in Conservation Law Enforcement and Parks & Forest Resources. I have also been doing trail work. In 2019 I worked for the Student Conservation Association partnered with the National Park Service. I spent 4 months in Alaska and 2 in the backcountry working on trails. I spent time in Denali, Klondike Gold Rush, and Glacier Bay. I got a fishing license and caught a sockeye salmon. I stayed close to home this summer and worked for the Connecticut State Parks as a seasonal maintainer until December. I have also been an EMT for 1 1/2 years.



Photos courtesy of Rebecca Durinick, above and left, and Erin Reilly, cover and below.

ERIN REILLY 2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

I'm graduating this semester (finishing my four-year degree in three years) and I'm looking forward to finding a summer internship now that things have plateaued a bit. I'm looking into graduate programs for the fall and I'm hoping to get into forest entomology research - there's been some very interesting work in emerald ash borer genetics as of late! Next week I start the fieldwork portion of my capstone project, which involves a forest health audit of a 250-acre property.

The current plan going forward is to coordinate and work with the inventory crew that will be collecting data across the property to determine what forest health concerns are already present. A management plan from 2018 noted, among other diseases, white pine blister rust and maple borer which is especially of concern because the property owner is interested in starting syrup production. Once current data is collected, we'll be making an addendum to the management plan to account for the current forest health concerns and to recommend actions to prevent or mitigate future forest health concerns.



On Sunday, January 31, TIMPRO Board Joan Nichols guided state legislators through the Baltic Reservoir in Sprague. The area had recently been logged to remove dead and dying ash. Despite the freezing weather, 15 people turned out for the tour including 3 legislators, Sprague First Selectwoman, and members of the Sprague Conservation Commission. Nichols used the event to help legislators understand the purposes and benefits of sustainable forest management. This account is based on Julia Werth's February 6 feature in 'The Connecticut Examiner.'



“When you walk through a forest that’s starting to age it just doesn’t look good,” said Joan Nichols, a professional forester based in Franklin Connecticut. “It would be like if the entire population of the state of Connecticut was all 90, it’s not good for the individuals and it’s not good for the state.”

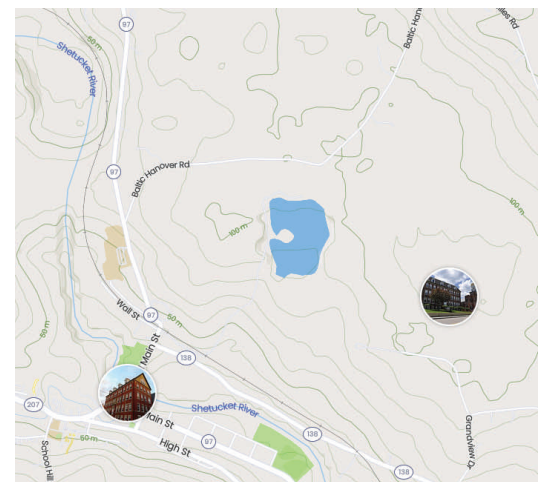
About 65 percent of Connecticut is forested. “Anywhere you drive you see trees, and everyone loves to learn about trees,” she said. “They love to learn about trees, about forest health...everybody thinks it’s great until we’ve got to cut trees down. Some people have a mindset that cutting trees is a bad thing.”

It’s a mindset that Nichols and other foresters are worried about.

“It happened recently in Simsbury where the state put up a timber sale in Massacoe State Forest and a group of people showed up that didn’t like timber harvesting on state land,” Nichols said. “A few legislators showed up and joined in the protests and DEEP ended up shutting down the sale ... that even has had a pretty harsh rippling effect.”

That rippling effect prompted Nichols to invite state legislators to the Baltic Reservoir in Sprague where a tree harvesting project finished this past November.

“My goal was to explain to legislators why this activity took place,” she said. “I want to show people that you can do good forestry. It’s a little messy and a little noisy for a couple months, but then it quiets down, the land heals over and the forest is better off.”



Location, center, of Baltic Reservoir

Nichols said she hopes legislators and residents alike will take the time to learn why tree removal is an essential part of taking care of a forest instead of leaping to conclusions when they see the large equipment arrive.

"The idea that a group of people showed up at one sale and they don't like something and the state shut it down, that's scary," she said. "I want legislators to be informed so that if there is ever an initiative where people say they shouldn't be cutting timber on state land they have a little bit of knowledge to make that decision with."



Left to right: Representative Brian Smith, Senator Cathy Osten and Representative Irene Haines. Photo courtesy of Joan Nichols

THE NOVEMBER ASH REMOVAL

As reported by *The Day*, the commission and the Sprague Board of Selectmen decided to harvest dead and dying ash trees on Baltic Reservoir land while they were still marketable for lumber or firewood. The standing trees were auctioned off for \$24,000, which was earmarked for open space preservation.



Photo courtesy of The Day.

The logging operation also prevented these dying trees from becoming a falling hazard for people enjoying the property and allowed new, healthy trees to grow up in their place.

An important reason to fell the trees is that ash tends to snap not long after it dies. Standing dead ash are a danger. For the same reason, Sprague Tree Warden David Gustafson said, the ash along Sprague roads were taken down even if not yet dead. After they are dead, it's difficult and dangerous to cut them down.

Even felled ash can be dangerous. The bottoms of thick trunks can explode without warning, one more reason not only to cut but also remove the trees from the public area around Baltic Reservoir.

Above left, Kathleen Boushee, Conservation Committee member, and David Gustafson, Sprague Tree Warden, review the November silvicultural operation that removed dead and dying ash trees. Boushee said that the logging trails will be converted to hiking trails. Steps are already being taken to prevent abuse by off-road vehicles. The area is also under video surveillance.

Editor's Note: The timber harvesting operation was carried out by TIMPRO Board member Andy Clark of Limb-It-Less Logging, LLC who did an outstanding job and purchased the timber.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

MEET DANICA DOROSKI



Newly hired as Coordinator for CT-DEEP's Urban Forestry program, Danica Doroski brings deep roots in community organization and activism as well as expertise in urban forest stand dynamics and horticulture.

Doroski is an accomplished outdoorswoman who credits a book for inspiring her career trajectory. "I read Tom Wessel's book 'Reading the Forested Landscape' while working as a field assistant at the Harvard Forest. It really inspired me to start thinking about humans as an integral part of the environment and ecology of a site. My first job out of Bates College was at Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia. I looked into how aesthetics feeds into the way the public looks at the environment. I did an internship there and thought about the role that community engagement plays in communicating the importance of ecology and the environment to the public."

It was the Philadelphia position that led to work in New York City conducting research on invasive species control in city parks. "I wanted to get the information from our research out to the public better," Doroski explained. "I approached urban forestry from many different angles. It all inspired me to return to graduate school." In 2017, she got an MFS from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (now the Yale School of the Environment) and is working toward her PhD studying urban forest stand dynamics and restoration.

"I'd like to use my research to improve management of the urban forest," Doroski said. "My base is New Haven so I used GIS to find forested areas throughout the city. People might think only of parks when they think of forests but in my research I also looked at forest stands on abandoned and vacant lots. I used parcel size to examine how different management approaches could be used in urban forests of different sizes."

Environmental equity is a huge issue for Doroski: "In New York I was a community outreach liaison for the 'Partnerships for Parks'. We found a bias in budgeting and stewardship for certain parks that related to the neighborhood demographics. We got funding to reinvest in neglected parks but encountered local resistance to our efforts. More than anxiety or fear of gentrification, it was skepticism of the city government, of people coming in from outside and improving parks based on *their* perceptions rather than the community's."

So Doroski realized a way to win community support was rescheduling public scoping meetings. "Often meetings were held midday so few people in the community could leave work and attend. I rescheduled them to early evenings and provided food so people could come after work and bring their kids and have their evening meal."

Another big issue is access to parks and urban woodlands. "In New Haven, there are neighborhoods that can't get to forests," she said.

"The role I see myself filling," Doroski summed, "is identifying community leaders and engaging them before any work is done. It is an opportunity for me because I get to learn about the com-

Photos courtesy of Danica Doroski



CONNECTICUT URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM

If "Urban Forestry" seems a contradiction in terms, consider that Connecticut has the most urban tree cover in the nation. And urban trees are for more than decoration: Despite the often harsh environments they endure, they clean the air of pollutants and provide invaluable shade to lower temperatures in the summer.

Beyond these environmental benefits urban forests and natural landscapes provide psychological benefits as well. This was well understood by the 19th and 20th century architects of the great urban parks such as Central Park in New York City. Today the term "Biophilia" underscores the human need for natural surroundings and we increasingly recognize the environmental equity issues of providing and maintaining urban forests in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

That is why the Connecticut 2020 Draft Forest Action Plan recommends substantial investment in maintaining and improving urban tree cover, especially since these are the very trees a vast majority of the state's residents encounter on a daily basis.

The CT-DEEP Urban Forestry website lists several programs including:

Technical Assistance: Forestry staff provide technical assistance to municipal tree workers, tree board members, state park workers and others. Staff also work with local communities to assist them in gaining a better understanding of their urban forest.

Connecticut Urban Forest Council: The Connecticut Urban Forest Council brings together individuals from throughout Connecticut who are in an urban forestry leadership role. A range of organizations are represented on the council.

Tree City USA and Tree Campus USA: Eighteen communities in Connecticut have currently been designated as Tree Cities USA. Additionally, one college campus, the **University of Connecticut**, has been designated as a Tree Campus USA.

Urban Forestry Grants: The America the Beautiful Grant Program:

The America The Beautiful Grant Program is currently suspended.



Bits and Chokers

ADAM LUCHON 2019 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

My last semester of college was certainly more challenging than the first. It was still great though, and I learned and honed my skills in various forestry skills such as plant anatomy and forest measurements and statistics. Unfortunately, all classes moved to online after spring break, which made classes that were normally outside, such as forest measurements not nearly as enjoyable. I've also been on the lookout for summer employment, although it is an extremely strange and hard time to be trying to find work. I'm sure I will find something, whether it be landscaping or some forestry-type work. Thank you so much for reaching out.



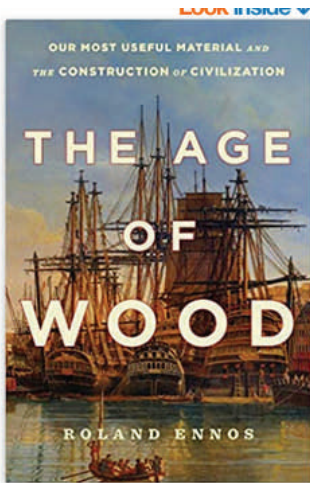
ALYSSA HOTCHKISS 2019 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

I am doing well. While remote/online learning has been challenging, I've been fortunate to continue in-person classes at SUNY Cobleskill. Last semester, I used an electrofishing boat on Otsego Lake, NY, and caught a huge common carp (left). I had never seen carp in real life, so this experience was especially exciting for me. This semester, I am taking classes such as Water Chemistry and Soil/Water Conservation, which will be beneficial in my career of choice.

MICHAEL HANLON JR 2020 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

I've been attending Northwestern Connecticut Community College with online classes. And I work at a local grocery store. I hope to be going in person at college coming up in the fall.

THE GREAT MAST CRISIS



The Great Mast Crisis is highlighted in “The Age of Wood” by Roland Ennos who explains the critical role wood has played not just in human culture but even before that – in our evolution as a species that gradually climbed down from life in trees to life on the ground.

Two years before the Boston Tea Party, a group of New Hampshire residents took matters into their own hands when British authorities tried to stop them from harvesting the towering white pines that the king wanted as masts for his navy.

To expand its empire, Great Britain relied heavily on its Royal Navy. And that meant building and maintaining a huge fleet of ships. The expansion of the Navy in turn fueled a demand for huge white pines for masts. But by the late 17th century, Great Britain had fewer and fewer trees that

could meet the exacting qualifications in size and strength to serve as single-stick masts and booms for a ship’s rigging.

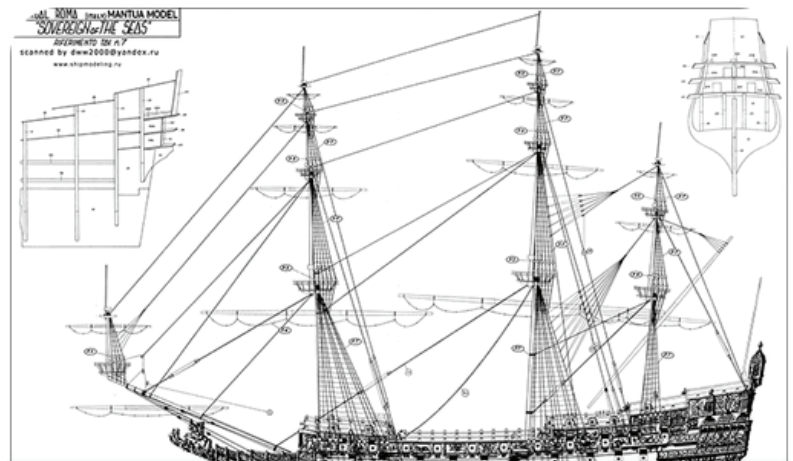
By contrast, these trees were abundant in colonial New England. Under the Mast Preservation Clause in the Massachusetts Charter in 1691, Britain claimed any white pine with a 24” or greater DBH. A 1722 New Hampshire law made it illegal to cut down white pines with a 12” inches or more DBH. A Surveyor of the King’s Woods marked selected trees with a broad arrow hatch.

But the colonists had other ideas. These massive trees could be felled, sawed into planks, and provide material for their homes. So they continued to harvest the marked trees. The law caused more anger and backlash than the Stamp Act or even the Tea Tax, and eventually resulted in the Pine Tree Riot of 1772.

When a Sheriff and his Deputy tried to exact fines for harvesting the marked trees, a New Hampshire mill owner, along with other mill owners and townsmen, lashed them with tree switches, cut off their horses’ ears, manes and tails, and forced them out of town.

The white pines came to symbolize the colonists’ resistance to royal edicts and desire for independence.

The revolt forced Great Britain to import shorter pines from the Baltic states. But these trunks had to be clamped with iron hoops to achieve the required height. Many broke. The breaking masts hobbled the British Navy during the Revolutionary War – even more so when the colonists began selling their towering white pines to the French for *their* navy!



THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVALS ADAPT



Sugaring is millennium-old custom practiced by Native Americans who taught the process to European settlers. But for the second year in a row, the pandemic has forced changes to traditional sugaring celebrations. "When COVID-19 began ramping up last spring, many maple programs and events were canceled," said Mat Wilkinson, president of the Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut.

That includes the annual Hebron Maple Festival, which typically takes place in March and draws thousands of people, not just from Connecticut but from nearby states as well. Last year the festival was canceled, one of many "big hits" the state's maple sugar producers took last year.

This year, the weekend of March 20-21st did see tour and tasting events at individual Connecticut maple syrup producers. They were popular as the coronavirus pandemic increased the appeal of outdoor activities and increased the need to support small local businesses. Some 29 sugarhouses were open to the public for socially distanced family adventures.

"The warm days and below freezing nights are ideal conditions and allow sugarhouses to tap into nature's sweetest treat," said Bryan P. Hurlburt, commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

Venues adopted different formats. Many traditional sit-down pancake breakfasts became takeout. Others strictly limited their attendance and required masks. Hebron, as noted, canceled its event.

The New Canaan Nature Center switched gears with its 2021 Adopt-a-Tree: Community Maple Syrup Program that quickly sold out. Participants could attend scheduled sessions and tap a tree for the season. The boil-down will take place at the Center.



The Stamford Museum & Nature Center would normally welcome crowds to watch its staff tap more than 200 maple trees and boil down the resulting sap to make maple syrup. But, as with so much else during this age of COVID-19, that big gathering is no longer safe.

"We typically have had festivals that might have had 3,000 people come during the day," said Lisa Monachelli, director of education at the center. "We would have people smushed into our sugar house. We obviously can't do that anymore."

Instead, the Center sponsored Maple Sugar Fest Sundays - three smaller maple-centric gatherings that took place Feb. 21 and 28, and March 7. "We're making sure we can spread people out as much as possible," Monachelli says.

"Everybody's trying to manage it," Wilkinson said. "Watching people make maple syrup is the quintessential New England experience."

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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 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:
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