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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

JUNE 25 ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

By Brennan Sheahan, TIMPRO President



“Markets, Markets, & More!” drew some 60 forest practitioners to Lockwood Farm in Hamden on June 25 for the first in-person event since the pandemic lockdown.

In addition to the Annual Meeting, the group heard presentations from Crystal Gauvin of Forest Economic Advisors, LLC, Mike Ferrucci of Interforest LLC, Charlie Niebling of Innovative Natural Resource Solutions, LLC,

Patrick Sasser of No Tolls CT, Scott Licamele of Manchester Wood-pellet, Jeff Ward (above), and Scott Williams of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, Andy Clark of CAN-AM Trading and Logistics, LLC, and Doug Emmerthal of CT DEEP Forestry. All of the presentations were nicely done and offered both valuable and relevant information to our membership.



Crystal Gauvin (above right) gave us all an in-depth look into the softwood lumber industry and how it pertains to the current housing market. Gauvin emphasized that existing home inventories are at rock bottom, builders have been underbuilding for the past decade and there is currently a surge of buyers in the 28–35 age class that are desperately looking for homes nationwide. All indicators point towards strong lumber demands until production capabilities come online in the South.

Andrew Clark ended our event by giving us all insight into the current strong demand for hardwood logs both domestically and overseas. Andy explained that the shipping industry is completely backed up creating issues for exporting logs. The sawmills up north are low on log inventories and are aggressively looking for all grades and species. One can only hope that this strong demand holds for a solid year or two!!

Farm Credit East was a generous donor to this event and many thanks for their continued support.

Photos courtesy of Brennan Sheahan and Joan Nicheols

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.

Is there a farm in your forest?
Learn about the Northeast Forest Farmers Coalition, pp. 6-7
The latest in agroforestry

LEGISLATOR VISITS NW CONNECTICUT LANDOWNER

TIMPRO members are actively reaching out to our legislators. Two years ago, State Representative Maria Horn (64th District) toured Great Mountain Forest with Henry Gundlach. At over 6,000 acres, Great Mountain Forest has a staff of foresters and loggers, its own sawmill, an up-to-date sugar shack, campsites, and trails for XC skiing. These give it a variety of revenue sources to weather economic ups and downs. During her visit, Rep. Horn observed how foresters and loggers were managing the die-off of ash trees due to the emerald ash borer infestation.

After that, she visited the South Norfolk Lumber Mill with Henry and his brother Eric to learn about the challenges facing the wood products industry.

Representative Horn returned to the area this June 12, a bright cool Saturday, to see these issues from a different angle. At 166-acres, Rebekah's Hill, down the road from Great Mountain Forest on Rte 272, is large by Connecticut standards - only 6% of the state's privately owned woodlands are over 100 acres - but a fraction of Great Mountain Forest. With no forestry staff of its own or sawmill or sugar shack, owner Hallie Metzger, our newsletter editor, is totally dependent on markets and available local loggers to carry out silvicultural operations.

This meeting took place in the Rebekah's Hill cabin where Henry Gundlach, his son Justin, and woodland owner Metzger described the economic woes inflicted by tariff wars and the importation of cheap wood products that have driven down local manufacturing.

Metzger stressed that timber was an underutilized resource in the state. "It's like we're sitting on a vein of gold but no one wants to use it."

Another problem is the way carbon credit programs distort regeneration by limiting how much wood can be harvested in a given area. Throughout the meeting, Representative Horn listened attentively and asked important questions about best silvicultural practice, trade wars, and the aging of the logger workforce.

After the discussion, the group walked the woods to look at plots established over a decade ago by Dr. Jeffrey Ward of the Connecticut Agricultural Extension Station on the effect of crown thinning and stands testing ways to protect regeneration of white pine and oak from deer browse.

When the group parted, it was with a feeling that Representative Horn really had a deeper understanding of the wood products industry and what it can provide in jobs and income if given more support by the state.



*L to R Henry Gundlach, Justin Gundlach, Rep. Maria Horn
 Photo courtesy Hallie Metzger*



Founded 1875

CAES ISSUES WARNINGS

Beech Leaf Disease now Widespread in Connecticut

New Haven, CT – Scientists from The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) have confirmed that Beech Leaf Disease (BLD), first detected in lower Fairfield County in 2019, is now *widespread and prevalent* on American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) throughout Fairfield, New Haven, Middlesex, and New London Counties. It also appears to be spreading into Litchfield, Tolland, and Windham Counties, albeit less severely; to date there are no confirmed observations of BLD in Hartford County. This disease, which can kill trees within several years of detection, was first discovered in 2012 in Ohio, followed in subsequent years by detections in Pennsylvania, New York, and Ontario, Canada.

The symptoms on beech foliage, best observed from below looking up into the canopy, are characterized by dark striping between leaf veins, as pictured below (left). However, this year the symptoms are severe, and can include: aborted leaf enlargement; cupping, browning, and yellowing of foliage; branch and tip dieback; and in some cases, premature leaf drop. CAES and DEEP Forestry believe that 2020's hot and dry summer, exacerbated by this year's dry spring, are playing a role in the observed symptoms.

Beech leaf disease is caused by the foliar nematode, *Litylenchus crematae* subsp. *mecanilli*. The nematode appears to cause disease on only American, European, and Oriental beech (*F. grandifolia*, *F. sylvatica*, and *F. orientalis*). 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 control.

Given the already well-documented widespread occurrence of BLD in 2021, reports of BLD in Fairfield, New Haven, Middlesex, and New London Counties to CAES and DEEP *are no longer requested*.

GYPSY MOTH 2021 OUTBREAK IN NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT CAUSES EXTENSIVE DEFOLIATION

New Haven, CT – The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) announced today that gypsy moth caterpillars (*Lymantria dispar*) have caused extensive defoliation of trees in northwest Connecticut, centered around Sharon, CT. We estimate roughly 25,000 to 30,000 acres of oak, beech, and aspen are completely defoliated with heavy defoliation of red maple and birch. Accurate documentation of the defoliation will come from our annual summer state-wide aerial forest health survey which will begin this week. This wasn't totally unexpected as our statewide 2020-2021 winter gypsy moth egg mass survey found high egg mass counts in the Sharon area, but any outbreak would depend, in part, on whether rains came at the right time for the gypsy moth fungus *Entomophaga maimagis* to kick in. Moisture is required for the fungus to infect the gypsy moth caterpillars. Spring was largely dry until the Memorial Day rains.

Christopher Martin, Director of Forestry at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, noted that in general, "partial or even complete defoliation of a tree in any one year does not mean the death of the tree. Healthy trees can tolerate some defoliation". However, "a repeat of this level of defoliation could result in the mortality of many of these mature trees" said Station Forester Dr. Jeffrey Ward. "Spring and early summer rains in 2022 will be important in ending this outbreak" said State Entomologist Dr. Kirby Stafford. There has been some limited gypsy moth caterpillar mortality due to the fungus which is encouraging for next year.

COMMON NAMES TO CHANGE FOR *Lymantria dispar* AND *Aphaenogaster araneoides*

The Entomological Society of America is dropping its common names for two insects — the gypsy moth and gypsy ant — because it says the names are inappropriate and offensive. The Entomological Society of America said it will seek new names for the moth *Lymantria dispar* and the ant *Aphaenogaster araneoides*.

"Words matter, and what we call something matters. And by using the former name for *Lymantria dispar*, it really was very hurtful to the Romani people," says Chris Stelzig, the executive director of the organization. The hurt can be extensive as many scientific groups follow its lead in referring to insect species. The Romani people, or Roma, are Europe's largest ethnic minority and face discrimination. "Gypsy" is considered a pejorative term. A request came in 2020 to change the name, and the ESA governing board made the final decision to remove the names in June. ESA archives show the term "Gypsy-moth" being used since at least 1908, if not earlier.

And the ESA governing board approved the term "gypsy ant" *Aphaenogaster araneoides*, in 2006. Biology professor Terry McGlynn of California State University Dominguez Hills says he popularized the common name "gypsy ants" starting around the year 2000. He wrote in a 2019 blog post that each colony of the ants has multiple nests but only occupies a single nest at a time. "They are itinerant critters that move from one place to another, with a number of specific places they will stay temporarily, but never occupy a single one permanently." He said a colleague suggested "gypsy ants" and he went along with it, suggesting it to the ESA. He regretted the decision, writing in 2019: "it's been clear for more than a short while that I made a bad decision to describe the ants using an ethnic slur, and I need to fix it." On Twitter, McGlynn admitted that was a "big mistake" and called the renaming "great news."

This is part of ESA's new initiative to take suggestions on common names that should be changed, to "help ensure that insect common names are respectful, inclusive, and descriptive of the insect."



Beech Wilt Disease

Beech

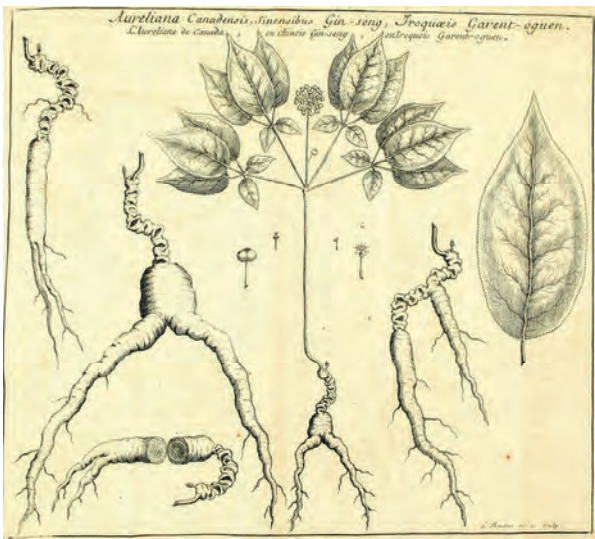
IS THERE A FARM IN YOUR FOREST?**INTRODUCING THE NORTHEAST FOREST FARMERS COALITION**

In addition to looking up at the trees when we cruise a woodland, we may want to study the forest floor as well. That's the goal of a team at The Forest School at Yale that has launched an initiative to provide new revenue sources for forest landowners. The Northeast Forest Farmers Coalition, funded by a \$250,000 three-year USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant and led by The Forest School faculty members Marlyse Duguid and Joseph Orefice, will be helping forest landowners cultivate valuable understory plants.

One such plant is ginseng (below). Others, such as ramps and bloodroot, may be less familiar. And then there are a whole variety of mushrooms. Other commercial understory herbs are golden seal and black cohosh.

"The structure right now is collecting information on who's out there – how many landowners, what kind of properties, and such. We'll have workshops beginning next spring," said Karam Sheban, a post-doctoral member of the team. "The limitation is knowledge and guidance. People want to know, 'How can you cultivate these plants?' There's lots of information on ginseng, less on the other species. It's not always easy to get planting stock, especially locally. But we're hoping to work on that. Ultimately plant products could go to local markets such as apothecaries."

The Coalition is part of the growing field of agroforestry, a movement that includes grazing livestock in forest settings as well as growing understory crops.



Long before the first European colonizers arrived in North America, ginseng (*panax quinquefolius*), pictured on the cover, was a well-known medicinal root. Ojibwe Midewiwin spiritual leaders used it for digestive troubles and pain relief. The Muscogee made a poultice of it to stop bleeding and a tea to treat respiratory conditions and fevers. The Meskwaki people of the Great Lakes region used it as both an aphrodisiac and as a panacea, a universal remedy for children and adults. In Asia, use of the native ginseng (*Panax ginseng*) goes back more than 5,000 years. It is also prized as a life-prolonging cure-all for everything from impotence and fatigue to diabetes and cancer.

Linking American ginseng to the Asian market was almost an accident. In 1711 Father Pierre Jartoux, a Jesuit in China, published a text on medicinal plants such as Asian ginseng. Father Joseph-Francois Lafitau, based in Canada, read the report and realized that Canada had a similar environment to where Chinese ginseng grows. Helped by the Mohawk from the Caughnawaga area, he found a specimen in 1716 and trade was off and running, usually as part of the fur trade. Shipped from East Coast ports, ginseng often sold for about 34 cents/pound. Following the Revolution, revenue from ginseng trade bolstered the new country's economy. While native North American stocks have been depleted, forest farmers can plant purchased seed or rootstock and, with time and patience, sell it to dealers for as much as \$600 a pound of the highest quality.



Goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), also known as eye balm, Ground raspberry, and Indian paint, is one of the most popular herbs in the United States. As one of its common names indicates, it is used to treat eye infections. It is often combined with echi-

nacea to treat or prevent colds although there is no evidence that it works. In fact, there is very little scientific evidence that goldenseal works to treat any condition. Nevertheless, goldenseal is often said to kill bacteria and cure ailments such as diarrhea, urinary tract infections, and cancer sores. Berberine, a substance in goldenseal, does kill some kinds of bacteria and fungus in test tube studies.

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), a member of the poppy family, grows from rhizomes that can form large colonies. Native Americans used the juice from the root for a red dye, hence its common name. But while it was also used by Native Americans to aid breathing and promote vomiting, there are concerns about modern-day medicinal claims and its use as a remedy may even be harmful. Unfortunately, it has also been promoted by some dietary supplement companies as a treatment or cure for cancer. Dental products containing bloodroot were withdrawn from the United States market in 2016 due to concerns about their potential to cause cancer. But forest farmers could cultivate it for artists, weavers, and others seeking natural dyes.



The Ramp (*Allium tricoccum* Ait.) already popular in farmers markets, can be found in rich, moist deciduous forest. It can be detected by its distinctive garlicky odor. Harvested in the early spring, ramps are a good source of iron and vitamins A and C. Like garlic and onions, ramps contain sulfur compounds that may be especially healthful. They are also very easy to prepare and incorporate into diverse menus.

Grill whole ramps that have been brushed with olive oil until soft and charred.

Simmer whole ramps in boiling water until soft; pat dry, cool, and drizzle with a hazelnut oil vinaigrette.

Chop ramps, sauté in butter, and add to an omelet or frittata with goat cheese and chopped parsley.

Puree cooked chopped ramps with boiled potatoes and chicken broth for a new take on potato-leek soup.

Stir-fry chopped ramps with sesame oil, ginger, and soy sauce; sprinkle toasted sesame seeds over.





Bits and Chokers

RESTORING THE FOREST

“The Forest” is not “the forest” or “a forest.” It is the 800-year old oak framing that supported the roof and spire of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

When this roof burst into flames on April 15, 2019 and crashed to the floor of the church interior, French President Emmanuel Macron vowed to restore it. And after discarding the idea of a modern glass spire, the design team approved a plan to recreate the original oak structure, including a 96-meter wooden spire.

Each oak used must be about 20 meters of straight timber, DBH 1 meter, yet have a slight curve to fit an overhead curve of 65 feet long for the roof’s framework (its nave and choir). Selected trees are marked with a forestry seal of the state and a small white tag bearing an etching of Notre Dame, much as North American white pine was marked for the Royal Navy. The tree’s geolocation in the forest is noted, as well as its intended place in the restoration.

Where can France find this volume of suitable aged oak? Many will come from forests such the Forest of Villefermoy about 50 miles southeast of Notre Dame whose origins date back to Gallo-Roman times. Many of its trees are now over 200 years old, dating to the French Revolution, according to Bertrand Munch, the director general of France’s National Forestry Office. As of April 2021, a thousand oak trees have been cut from some 200 public and private French forests for the reconstruction.

Last year, work on Notre Dame stopped when the pandemic hit France. But the race to cut the selected 1000 trees continued. The trees needed to be harvested before March 2021 so they could be stored to dry for 18 months at low humidity (below 30%) before being sawn into timbers.



Cathedral de Notre Dame in flames. The cause is still under investigation. The equivalent of some 52 acres of forestland burned to ashes.



The scaffolding supporting this bell is just a fraction of the acres of wood in The

It's slow progress, but the team of engineers, carpenters, and construction workers remains hopeful. "The selection of these first oaks is an important step on the road to the rebirth of the cathedral," said Dominique Jarlier, president of the National Federation of Forestry Municipalities. "It's part of a huge transformation. This jewel of Gothic architecture is being rebuilt with oak trees from local forests, as 200 construction workers operate on-site every day." French president Emmanuel Macron hopes to have the cathedral repaired before the city hosts the 2024 Summer Olympics, slated to begin on July 26, 2024, in Paris.

Below right, one of the oak trees slated for the cathedral restoration. Each beam in the cathedral holding up the lead roof was sawn from a single tree.

Forester Renaud Trangosi says the trees weren't chopped down specifically for Notre Dame. He explained that it's part of regular forest management. "Every decade, we make way for new trees by taking down old ones. It's about creating the best forest for the future, not about making money from trees. The forests are eternal but that's not the case for the trees. And if they have a second life in Notre Dame Forest at the top of the cathedral, so much the better."

Video of The Forestry operations is available on our website timproct.org

This article drew on reports by the BBC, NPR, and Architectural Digest. Quotes by Dominique Jarlier and Renaud Trangosi were translated from the original French.



THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX



Few people see let alone admire the framing work that goes into a building. It's rather like admiring the skeleton that supports our bodies.

A team from the University of Illinois determined to, literally, turn that oversight inside out by presenting framing models at the Venice Architecture Biennale, one of the world's foremost art shows. "American Framing" is on view until Nov. 21 at the delayed Venice Architecture Biennale.

The exhibit was created and curated by architects and educators Paul Andersen and Paul Preissner. On display is a facade, or call it an addition, in wood framing for the front of the classic U.S. Pavilion built by Delano and Aldrich in the 1930s, a sloping structure four stories high to suggest the gabled roof of an American home. Around the now-enclosed courtyard is furniture by architects and designers Ania Jaworska, Thomas Kelley and Carrie Norman built in lumber; inside are exhibits of photographs and models telling the stories and possibilities of wood framing.

But is wood framing art?

Yes, say Andersen and Preissner. "I think the attraction for us, and the reason why we thought it deserved a little bit more attention, is because on the one hand, yes, absolutely it is low-

brow," Andersen said. "It is kind of common and ordinary and has this history of being a pragmatic solution, of being an easy cheap way to build in the Midwest."

Although wood framing might seem to use too many trees to be environmentally friendly, the reverse is actually true, Preissner said. Every construction method needs to be seen in terms of its embedded energy and environmental cost; building with steel and concrete both mean building with materials with a high embedded environmental footprint. Plus the trees used in wood frame are good for the environment to grow — as crops — and are sustainable.

Adapted from an April 25, 2021 Chicago Tribune article by Doug George. Photo by Antonio Perez



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PO Box 508
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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

**Celebrating Agriculture Event WILL take place this year.
Woodstock, CT Fairgrounds
September 25th from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

We will hold our annual Log-A-Load fundraiser at this event.

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.