

The Cutting Edge



Inside This Issue

P. 2-3, TIMPRO News: Business sponsorships; New Board Member; DC Fly-In; Student Workshop; NELA Grant; FFA Meeting

P. 4, A Night Out

P. 5, Erin Reilly; Master Loggers

P. 6-7, CT Legislative Report; Liability Insurance; Rep. Joe Courtney at Pachaug Forest

P. 8-9, Christian Allyn; Maine Promotes the Timber Industry

P. 10, Kevin Blacker Commentary

P. 11, Broken Bats to Chopsticks!

P. 12, Calendar of Events

A special thanks to The New Yorker Magazine and artist Alice Cheng for the use of this May 22, 2017 cartoon.

Board of Directors

Brennan Sheahan - Pres.

Henry Gundlach - VP

Trish Laplatney - Treas.

Gerald Bellows - Sec.

Kevin Blacker

Clyde Breakell

Kyle Breutsch

Robert Carrington

Andrew Clark

Peter Hart

Mike Hinman

Kevin Massey

Douglas Moore

Joan Nichols

David Trowbridge

Alternates

Jim Gillespie

Marshall McKenna

Anthony Paradise

Editor Hallie Metzger



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

TIMPRO CT NEWS

THE FUTURE OF LOGGING? THE FUTURE OF LOGGING!

Drink in hand, a logger relaxes after a day's work. Samples (trophies?) of his work grace the wall. Does the *New Yorker* cartoon on the cover foreshadow the future of logging? Whether artist Alice Cheng meant it or not, the future may not be so farfetched. Mechanized logging holds out the prospect of something like a 9-5 "clean" job. And as members of the profession age, their replacements are younger and have different career expectations, including steady work at higher salaries. See pages 8-9 to learn how Maine is guiding the transition.

In this issue, we explore many of the challenges shaping the future of our profession. Whatever those challenges, you can be sure that TIMPRO CT actively supports you and makes your voice heard by representatives in Connecticut and in Washington DC.

Here are just two of the steps we are taking to widen our impact.

- ◆ We are developing more connections to business: The Board is finalizing a business sponsorship program to actively engage people in private lending institutions, equipment and truck dealerships, and other companies that are willing to support us and the forest products industry. In exchange, business sponsors will receive invitations for complimentary attendance to all our events, be given exhibitor space, receive advertising in our newsletter, on our website, and in other communications. Business sponsorships will be for one full year.
- ◆ We are expanding links to organizations that advocate for our causes: Board Member Joan Nichols has been elected to the Board of the Northeast Loggers Association and will join TIMPRO CT members Robert Carrington, Andrew Clark, Henry Gundlach, and Robert Thurber, Jr.

NEW BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED

Welcome our new Board member: Kevin Blacker has joined the TIMPRO CT Board. He brings vitally important knowledge of the shipping and exporting aspects of our work. Read his commentary, p. 10.

TIMPRO CT RECEIVES GRANT FROM NORTHEAST LOGGERS ASSOCIATION

We are grateful to the Northeast Loggers Association for awarding TIMPRO CT \$1500 to improve display and printed materials for public information and outreach.

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 AT FFA CONVENTION

On June 1, Joan Nichols and Brennan Sheahan attended the Future Farmers of America statewide convention held at the University of Connecticut, Storrs.

TIMPRO MEMBERS VISIT WASHINGTON DC

Kyle Breutsch

This past April, Joan Nichols, Kevin Massey, Henry Gundlach, and I went to the Fly-In in Washington DC. While down there we sat down with the aides of Senators Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal and with Congressman Joe Courtney. During our meetings we spoke to them about trying to get bipartisan sponsors for the Safe Haul Act, which would allow log trucks to utilize federal interstates for short haul trips. Another bill we asked them to sponsor is The Future Logging Careers Act (Read more about this Act, p. 8), which would allow individuals 16-17 years of age to work in the woods with their parents or stand in place with a parent during a logging operation. Also during our meetings we spoke about future biomass utilization in the state of Connecticut and about the recent devastating gypsy moth infestation and how we can combat this pest. We stopped in the office of Congresswoman Johanna Hayes but she was not available at the time. Overall our trip and meetings were very positive and went well.

No, your eyes are not deceiving you. That's a metal tree!



PENNSYLVANIA SEVENTH GRADERS MEET TIMPRO

Henry Gundlach

The April 2019 Loggers Plus Expo in Bloomsburg, Pa featured a special event. Kyle Breutsch (left) and I (right) gave a presentation on silviculture and logging to nearly 125 seventh grade students with their 8 teachers from nearby Bloomsburg Middle School. The event was sponsored by The Northeast Loggers Association (NELA) in conjunction with the Expo. NELA also treated the students to pizza after the program and held a scavenger hunt before taking them on to see the equipment show. It was a great event, despite the pouring rain!

Photos top and right, courtesy of Joan Nichols

Photo Bottom left, courtesy of Mona Lincoln

A Night Out

Brennan Sheahan, TIMPRO CT President



Some 60 people attended TIMPRO's Annual Meeting on April 17 at Adams Mill Restaurant in Manchester, CT.

All of our speakers did a great job providing up-to-date information on the current state of the forest products industry within the State of CT.

Joan Nichols briefed the audience on this year's legislative session. Ted Wright came down from Maine to remind us that he has the Master Logger program available to our dedicated loggers.

Kevin Grady, Will Hochholzer (left), and Nick Zito, all with CT DEEP Forestry, updated the audience on their specialties. Tom Fletcher from Hull Forest gave us a snapshot of the current lumber markets and the impact the US/China trade

war is having on our industry.

Anne Lavoie of Combined Insurance was kind enough to drop in and introduce herself and all of the insurance products that could benefit small business owners. Also, see Norman Dorval's article on insurance, p. 6.

Tom Fletcher and I reported on market conditions. Overall, the paper chip market was strong throughout the winter months. Logging north of us had a decent winter harvest and the pulp mills were finally able to build some inventory. Overall, the pulp and paper industry is projected to remain healthy. The greatest strength of the industry is the increasing demand for packaging products. As more people around the globe turn to online shopping or ecommerce, the demand for cardboard and other packing materials remains strong. The pulp and paper mills that have remained continue to add new technology that revolutionizes the manufacturing process helping, in turn, to increase production and productivity.

This evening event was a departure from our usual daytime Annual Meeting. We were very fortunate to find this venue. It started out as a pulp and paper mill in the late 1800's producing some of the finest paper world-wide for many decades. A good portion of the building was restored keeping much of the original materials intact. The venue provided a great backdrop for our meeting with its roots so firmly planted within CT's forest products industry many years ago. Attendance was high for this event that brought together loggers, mill owners, and foresters to catch up with old friendships and make some new ones while taking in a good meal and 2 hours of educational opportunities for our CEU licensing.

We ended the night with a great raffle drawing from all of the items donated by our members and businesses. Many folks went home full of good food and some prizes to boot!! We hope we can do this type of meeting again. Cheers!



Above: Will Hochholzer

Right: Left to right -Trish LaPlatney, Andrew Clark, and Peter Hart

Photos courtesy of Joan Nichols



UPDATE FROM 2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ERIN REILLY

Erin recently emailed this update of her first year at Paul Smith's College: "After finishing up the two-week Forest Production section, I've felled trees with chainsaws, run a skidder, and worked in the lumber mill on campus. We recently went on a field trip to a nearby paper mill. The mill was really loud even with hard hats and earplugs! It was fun to see the belts send slabs from the saw to the edger, and to align the edger to cut the kind of boards we wanted. We were cutting pine and red maple, making boards and firewood. In this picture my partner and I were the brush crew, cutting down leaning snags and clearing diseased beech.

THE MASTER LOGGER PROGRAM

In a recent phone interview, Ted Wright, Executive Director of the Master Logger program, reviewed points he made in his presentation at our April 17 Annual Meeting. He noted that the program was launched in Maine by a group of logging contractors to raise a logger's professional profile through improved performance in the woods. The program is now growing in other states although the number of Master Loggers has dropped in Connecticut.

Wright emphasized, "The Master Logger program is a different type of certification from taking a class. We have highly qualified-people who observe loggers in the woods which makes it based on performance, experience and training. We want to see what is happening there."

In addition to raising standards, the program also improves safety.

That's why the National Council of the Compensation Industry gives Master Loggers a reduction in workman's compensation policy costs: The reduction in Connecticut comes to \$5 per \$100 of compensation versus the standard \$40/100, a benefit that reduces the program's cost. Still, Wright said, "We're always looking for ways to lower fees. We're always pushing landowners to help promote and underwrite us."

The Master Logger program focuses on the correct and safe use of chainsaws and other such equipment, not mechanized equipment. Acknowledging that the trend to mechanization is ongoing, Wright noted, "You still need people who can run a chainsaw."

To learn more, please visit: www.masterloggercertification.com or call 207-688-8195 option 2. Also, read *The Cutting Edge* September 2016, profile of Master Logger Bob Thurber on our website, www.timproct.org.



CONNECTICUT LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Joan Nichols, Legislative Correspondent

Along with The Connecticut Forest and Park Association, we worked as hard as we could this year to get these two bills passed.

SB 998 AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO ENVIRONMENT RELATED STATUTES: This CT DEEP agency bill offered minor revisions to a number of environmental statutes. Included were the following fixes to the CT Forest Practices Act: Change CEU requirements from biennial to four years; provide a 60 day grace period for expired certifications. Practitioners would not be able to work with an expired certification, but they would have had 60 days to renew their certification and provide proof of CEU compliance without having to take the test. It also acknowledged national SAF Certification for Certified Foresters thereby eliminating the need for SAF Certified Foresters to take the CT forester's exam for CT certification. The bill was passed in the Senate with amendments but an individual in the House objected that he hadn't had a chance to review the changes. With no time left, the bill died.

HB 6004 AN ACT CONCERNING THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE FOREST PRACTICES ADVISORY BOARD: We want to acknowledge Sen. Kissel, Rep. Dubitzky, and the leadership of the Environment Committee who over the past two years have supported the need to clarify appointment authority for the Forest Practices Advisory Board.

This will be the third year in a row Timpro, the CT DEEP, and CFPA have tried to get these technical fixes through the General Assembly to provide favorable regulatory relief for our industry and provide representation on the FPAB. It was painful to lose out in the last minutes of the session but we'll be back next year!

Special thanks to CFPA's Eric Hammerling for helping to pull this report together.



LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR FORESTRY OPERATIONS

Norman Dorval, Tracy Driscoll Insurance, Bristol, CT

As an Insurance Agent specializing in the Forest Products Industry, providing Liability, Equipment, Auto, Workers Comp and Equipment coverage, I am always happy to answer questions about the right coverage needed by loggers.

When my phone rings, and there's a logger calling, it's because they need Liability or Equipment Insurance, and more often than not, the job they are on is asking for proof of coverage. It's important to know a few things first: are they only logging or are they cutting firewood, removing trees in residential neighborhoods, or have other ways of making money. I try to simplify the conversation and determine a few things quickly, like where they live, how big their operation is, and if the client requesting proof of coverage just needs a Certificate of Insurance, showing that the Logger has Liability Insurance, or needs to be named as an Additional Insured in the policy. It's good to get that info at the starting line as it adds to the cost.

Most Liability policies cover New England but exclude New York. We do, however, have two Insurance carriers that can include it. I try to use those companies when the logger lives somewhere on the western side of Vermont or in Massachusetts or Connecticut. Liability limits are \$1,000,000 per occurrence for Bodily Injury or Property damage, with a \$2 million aggregate (total for the year).

It's important to know what additional coverages specific to logging are included in the policy. We always make sure to include Accidental Overcutting. It is essential to protect the logger who cuts or clears land over the boundary line marked by a Forester or a property owner. Mistakes can happen!

The limit for Accidental Overcutting is \$25,000/year in one policy, \$100,000 or up to \$1 million in others.

Secondly, if a logger has a Log Loader that's not attached to their own log truck, but separate from it, we insist on Loading and Unloading coverage. It provides protection should the operator drop a log on a truck or cause damage. One of our insurance carriers automatically includes this as part of their broadened coverage for loggers. With others, it's an add-on for additional dollars in annual premium.

Finally, the cost is important. From a pricing standpoint, Liability policies, or General Liability as it's also known, are based on the amount of payroll a logger has and what additional job they do beyond logging.

Please be safe out there, and if you have any questions about your business, I am always here to answer your call. Have a great summer!

JOE COURTNEY AT PACHAUG STATE FOREST

This May, Congressman Joe Courtney (second from left) toured hard-hit Pachaug State Forest along with representatives from the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP), the University of Connecticut Extension Service, the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Friends of the Pachaug Forest to survey damage caused by gypsy moth caterpillars. Viewing the destruction, Representative Courtney said, "Congress actually has a chance to help private citizens and our region as a whole find a way to turn this problem into an opportunity by expanding the uses for biomass within the RFS – there is a goldmine of viable biomass to be found in the dead wood littered throughout the Pachaug Forest as a result of gypsy moth damage. Clearing out the dead trees and converting them into usable energy would be a win for everyone involved. As a carbon-neutral source of energy, biomass is a clean energy alternative that Connecticut should be taking full advantage of, and I'm working with a bipartisan group in Congress to pave the way for putting those resources to work. The severity of this issue requires a multi-faceted response from various levels of the government, and I am committed to working at the federal level to help secure resources needed to combat this mounting crisis."



Ed Note: The CT-DEEP 2018-2019 egg mass survey, available online, indicates reduced numbers – a hopeful sign that the worst of the infestation is overall although considerable damage remains.

UPDATE ON 2013 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER CHRISTIAN ALLYN



Since his 2017 graduation from The University of Connecticut, Torrington Campus, our 2013 Scholarship winner, Christian Allyn, (Left, reading to students at The Cobb School) has put his Bachelor of Science in Horticulture and Resource Economics to direct use. He immediately finalized the North Canaan Town Plan of Conservation and Development, fired up his business, Invasive Plant Solutions, and launched his run for North Canaan's Board of Selectmen. He recently shared this update with us: "The Plan of Conservation and Development is a state mandated comprehensive municipal plan which I wrote for North Canaan for free, saving North Canaan over \$50,000. This led me to be elected and to the plan being adopted. The plan is currently being successfully implemented by the

municipality and private industry resulting in over \$5 Million in building permits in 2018 and 7 new downtown businesses opening between March of 2018 and March of 2019. The chief accomplishment of North Canaan's efforts is the reopening of the Canaan Union Depot that was formerly under restoration for 16 years after damage by arson. I'm continuing to serve on the board of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Chestnut Association as well as serving with many other non-profit and volunteer organizations in Northwest Connecticut."

MAINE MOVES ON TWO FRONTS TO PROMOTE THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

Maine is moving on two fronts to promote a solid future for logging. The first is sponsoring legislation that will help family logging operations. These are currently treated differently from farming and fishing operations in terms of child labor laws. The second is the promotion of mechanized logging.

S. 818 The Future Logging Careers Act: Senate Bill 818 is in the first stage of the legislative process. Sponsored by Angus King, I-ME, and Jim Risch, R-ID, it would exempt certain 16- and 17-year-olds employed in logging operations from the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. The change would make restrictions on oppressive child labor inapplicable to employment of an employee age 16 or 17 by a parent, or a person standing in place of a parent, in a logging operation owned or operated by that parent or person. The proposed legislation would put logging more on a par with farming and fishing families who are allowed to have children 12 and up working with them. In presenting the bill, Senator King stated: "Logging is more than just an occupation in Maine - it's a tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation, supporting rural Maine families and boosting local economies." The bipartisan House version, HR1785, was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor in March. Representative Jared Golden, D-ME, (top right) said, "There are young people throughout Maine who have grown up waiting for their opportunity to enter this industry that plays such a vital part in their communities, and we should give them the opportunity to do just that."



Mechanized Logging: Maine's training program for mechanized logging could be a model for Connecticut. At a recent ceremony for the graduates of Maine's only post-secondary training program for operators of mechanized logging equipment, Jim Nichols, President of the Professional Logging Contractors of Maine (PLC), said, "We need you guys and we need you bad. The average age of a logger in Maine is over 55 and the traditional logger of yesterday is not the forest technician of today."

According to the PLC, approximately 95 percent of logging in Maine now relies on mechanized equipment including feller bunchers and harvesters, delimbers, grapple skidders, and forwarders. It generally takes at least a year of training and experience before an operator becomes skilled enough to run this equipment safely and efficiently. It is also expensive. Historically, employers spend approximately \$100,000 to train mechanized operators.

Maine Quality Centers, a unit of the Maine Community College systems, funds this specialized training with monies from the state of Maine and a 50 percent match from industry. A local woods company donated the woodlot for the program. Money from the harvest will go back to the program to help offset costs and aid in sustainability for future cohorts.

The program has been a huge success for the students. They spend weeks in the woods gaining hands-on experience with mechanized operations and are ready to get right to work. One student reported receiving five job offers after graduation; he figured that in the first four years of his logging career, he'd be \$200,000 ahead of traditional college students, who typically need significant student loans. His favorite piece of logging machinery? The buncher.

According to Leah Buck, NMCC Assistant Dean of Continuing Education, "Both the industry and the Community College System recognize that logging is a vital piece of the Maine economy. They have both stepped up to make this investment to create a well-trained workforce."

Read *The Cutting Edge, Summer 2018*, about TIMPRO's FFA workshop that introduced young men and women to mechanized logging. The John Deere training machines were made available by W.I. Clark of Wallingford.

Photo opposite page top left courtesy of The Cobb School; opposite page bottom right courtesy Jared Golden's Office

Photo above right courtesy John Deere



The Finnish Forestry Association reports that mechanized harvest helps the environment, operators, and the bottom line. Clients can customize machines such as the John Deere 1470G Harvester by the width of the wheels and by cabin characteristics such as mobility, sunscreens, seats, and illumination.

The harvester can also receive information including the timber deals the logging is linked to, the type of logging that should be carried out, whether the stumps need treatment to prevent root rot (a problem for spruce stumps in Finland), and the lengths to which the different grades are to be cut.

Furthermore, the machines create mobile phone networks covering uninhabited forest areas that are needed in mechanized harvesting. Since these networks are accessible by all, anyone spending time in forests, whether for recreation or work, can be reached by mobile phone thanks to the mechanized forestry operations.

ONE MORE PERSPECTIVE

Kevin Blacker



At the TIMPRO CT Annual Meeting on April 17, Kevin Grady and William Hochholzer of the CT DEEP described the unprecedented tree mortality affecting forestlands. Over 1 million acres were defoliated in CT last year with an estimated 28,000 acres of tree mortality. Insect damage (gypsy moths, emerald ash borer, and two lined chestnut borer) combined with multiple years of drought conditions and forests reaching maturity are to blame. Both men acknowledged potential for unprecedented wildfires in CT. Both acknowledged the danger and liability created by falling trees and branches in state forests.

Hochholzer noted the challenges this slow motion catastrophe presents. Overseeing 175,000 acres of state forestland with only 8 foresters, the DEEP completed management on only about 1,500 acres last year - less than 1%. Chris Martin's 2019 Forest Resource Factsheet identifies "Insufficient resources for effective management of publicly-owned forests

and other lands held for the public good" as a key issue. Hochholzer noted that roughly 40% of their staff is set to retire in the next few years.

Kevin Grady very accurately stated that CT's robust and talented private sector forest professionals could help solve this problem if there were a market for the dead and dying trees

That's why I am advocating for CT to create a state-wide market for dead and dying trees. One way would be to implement a recommendation from the CT DOT's 2017 Statewide Freight Plan (Table 3-1 below) to "attract wood pellet exports" to CT Ports. The new port operator in New London has multiple executives

<p>Attract wood pellet exports (Required investments: \$2-12 million for specialized handling equipment and improvements)</p>	<p>Leverage existing rail connectivity: New England Central Railway provides direct access to Canadian and northern New England forestry production centers and has on-dock rail at the State Pier</p> <p>Support the investment in specialized infrastructure, to attract wood pellet flows through New London</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

such as K. Budreau, J. Arsenault, and P. De Montigny from the wood pellet export industry (DRAX) and CT Companies are already exploring wood pellet production in the state such, for example MLS Group exploring a pellet factory in Manchester. Another outlet would be to allow clean, renewable wood biomass electricity generation facilities to be constructed in CT.

The CT Forestry sector could also create "Log Banks" targeted at wealthy individuals looking for a stable investment. Timber would be harvested now before it goes bad and is unusable. Logs could be bundled in chains and sunk to the bottom of deep ponds in old quarries where they will remain preserved for years. When market conditions are right, the logs will be brought back up and sold at profit by the investor.

We welcome comprehensive press coverage of this issue to motivate our State Legislators and Regulators to take swift corrective actions. Properly handled, public safety will be improved, the environment protected, and economic development spurred.

Editor's Note: *The Cutting Edge*, Winter 2018 issue featured Kevin Blacker's analysis of plans for the New London Port.

TURNING BATS INTO CHOPSTICKS

In October, The New York Times reported on what is surely a most unusual recycling story: after baseball season concludes, thousands of cracked or splintered baseball bats are made into chopsticks - part of an effort to preserve *Fraxinus lanuginosais*, a species known as Aodamo that is native to the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido and a region of eastern Russia.

Durable, light, and flexible Aodamo is typically resistant to splintering. Once popular for professional bats in Japan, it is no longer considered feasible to log so most bats now are made from maple and white ash.

When Aodamo bats did break or splinter, they were "mostly given away or burned in barrels to keep players warm during spring training," the Times reported. But Hyogoo Uratani, CEO of Hyozemon, a company that creates unusual chopsticks, had a better idea. A high school player, he decided to turn the bats into chopsticks. He sees "Broken Bats to Chopsticks" as a way to "start having a conscience about recycling."

The barrel of the bat is used for the chopsticks, but nothing is thrown away. The handles become shoe horns while the caps of the bats become drinking cups. "The barrel is sawed from the handle, sliced vertically into thin blocks" then sanded by craftsmen into the shape of chopsticks imprinted with team logos and finished with lacquer.



Twelve teams in the league have joined the cause and Nippon Professional Baseball contributes to the nonprofit Aodamo Preservation Society. Aodamo saplings will eventually be placed in the ground outside the stadiums along with photographs of the fully-grown trees.

Akihiro Kagayama, general manager of NPB's business development and special

events, said, "Our dream is that one day these will be forests."



PO Box 508
Oneco, CT 06373

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019

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

LOG A LOAD FOR KIDS!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

SEE FLYER INSIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION

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.