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The Cutting Edge



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- Mathew Derby
- Anthony Paradise

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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

TIMPRO at NELA by Kyle Breutsch

For what COVID has brought upon us, the 2021 Loggers Expo at Cross Insurance Center, September 24 to 25, in general was smaller than what I expected. As NELA reported, COVID concerns kept attendance down as did issues at the US/Canada border. I stayed one day and spent most of my time in the Anderson and Heavy Machinery Tent where I got to visit with Thomas Douglas, a classmate from Unity College who graduated a year before me. He now manages his grandfather's business, RA Thomas Logging, and started Thomas Logging and Forestry. He runs a cut to length operation with three harvesters and three forwarders. It was interesting to learn more about forestry operations where he works. Joan Nichols and Henry Gundlach also attended as members of the NELA Board. Brennan Sheahan attended as a representative of Connecticut Mulch. To me, attendance was down from previous years and the exhibitors were fewer but overall I believe it was a good turnout. NELA reports that nearly 3,000 industry representatives attended, down from the usual 5,000 to 7,000 attendees. NELA has announced that the 2022 Loggers' Expo is scheduled for May 6-7, 2022 at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction, Vermont. The show will return to the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor, Maine in 2023, with tentative dates for the show of May 19-20, 2023.



Kyle, right, got to spend time with Thomas Douglas, on left, a friend from Unity College.

Photos on facing page courtesy of Eileen Townsend, Editor-In-Chief, *The Northern Logger*

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.

PICTURES FROM THE NELA EXHIBITION



WELCOME TWO NEW ALTERNATES TO THE BOARD: STANLEY BURR

Stanley Burr of Higganum, Connecticut has been working in the woods for forty-five years. "I started cutting firewood when I was 15 and just moved on from there" is how he sums up a career of almost half a century. His work has ranged from clearing land for development to preparing pastures for farmers to creating slash piles around clearings to keep out deer.

But recently, he says, "I've been doing a lot of wildlife clearings." These days Connecticut is redressing the habitat needs of endangered fauna. Both state and federal programs provide information and funding to improve habitats for species such as the New England Cottontail. The current situation is especially challenging for grassland-dwelling species such as bobolink that need shrubby growth or the monarch butterfly that requires stands of *Asclepias tuberosa*, i.e. butterflyweed or related native species their caterpillars feed on. The forest regrowth throughout the state has significantly reduced grassland habitat.

An avid outdoorsman, Burr invited local children to come to his property on April 17 and try their luck fishing his pond. "The Rod & Gun Club used to have a fishing derby," he explained. "When they discontinued it, a friend and I decided to do it at the pond on my property." The friend was Frank Ziorbron, a school bus driver, who guaranteed a successful turnout by spreading the word about the event and who was solely responsible for collecting gift cards from local businesses to give out as prizes.

This year, the Burr's Pond event drew 50 children from 20 different families. For ten to twelve of them, it was the first time ever trying their luck with a rod. Burr stocked the pond with 100 fish before the event. And he saw to it that every child had the thrill of catching a fish.

There were also contests and prizes, such as a Dunkin' Donuts gift certificate for a child who falls in. The girl who won it actually jumped in for the prize! Other children vied to catch the smallest fish. That turned out to be a 2 1/4" sunfish.

Burr invited participants to contribute to our organization's annual Log-A-Load drive raising funds for the Children's Miracle Network hospitals such as the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford.

"It wasn't a ton," Burr concluded, "but word got out." The result was a fun and successful day for the children who all caught something and an additional \$150 for the Log-A-Load funds.



AND MAT DERBY



Born and raised on a Vermont dairy farm, Mat Derby is now a proud resident of Old Lyme, Connecticut and a new Alternate on our TIMPRO Board.

Why Old Lyme? "It's where I lay my head. My girlfriend Emily Griswold lives here and we had a little boy Griffin, now 5 years old," he said and added that the location put him within an hour of his job sites which are mostly in the eastern half of the state. He has been working for Andy and Trish Clark for three years now.

That sounds straightforward but is quite a story in itself: "I didn't know them before I moved here. One day I saw a blue truck in a grocery store parking lot with the license plate 'Logging.' I asked my girlfriend about it but she didn't know who owned the truck. Then she saw a car with the license plate 'Logyard.' She followed it and we finally connected it to Andy and Trish."

Mat's work here is very different, though, from what he did before moving to Connecticut. In Vermont he installed vacuum systems for the maple sugar industry. (Photo below right) "It made sense to also get into logging in order to improve the sugar bush," he said. "I grew up cutting wood every winter for my family and bought a John Deere 440 when I was 19." An outdoorsman, Mat also enjoys hunting, fishing, and driving an ATV. He returns regularly to Vermont to hunt with his two boys, one of whom is qualifying as a Youth Hunter.

So a path of twists and turns leads from Vermont to Old Lyme and, finally to TIMPRO: Mat sought out Trish and Andy about a job. They, in turn, approached him about joining TIMPRO. And now we welcome him to our Board.

British Broadcasting Company News reported that the Quebec Maple Syrup Producers (QMSP) - the so-called Opec of maple syrup – had to release about 22m kg from its emergency larder, nearly half the total in reserve. The shortfall resulted from a combination of increased demand and a shortened harvest. It is the first time in three years the reserve has been used. Quebec produces almost three-quarters of the world's maple syrup. In 2021, 183m kg of maple syrup was produced worldwide and 60m kg of that came from Quebec's forests, according to QMSP. And the QMSP is already planning ahead to next year's harvest, where it will tap an extra 7 million trees. A shorter and warmer season this year caused supply to drop by nearly a quarter. At the same time, global sales of maple syrup jumped by more than 36% over the year before, according to QMSP.



NEWS YOU CAN USE

WHAT WE CONTRIBUTE TO CONNECTICUT'S ECONOMY

Forest Products Industries' Economic Contributions: Connecticut - 2017

Connecticut has 1.8 million acres of forest land that cover 58 percent of its land base, and most of this forest land can produce commercial timber. The majority, 72 percent, is privately owned; about 28 percent is managed by state and local government, and less than half a percent by the federal government. Connecticut ranks 18th in forest land acres among the 20 Northeast and Midwestern area states. These forests support a vibrant forest products industry.

Key Findings – Forest Products Industries:

- Provided almost 7,700 direct jobs and supported a total of almost 16,000 jobs in 2017.
- Had greater direct labor income and output than: commercial fishing, hunting, and trapping; mining, oil and gas production; and plant crop and animal farming.
- Connecticut and adjacent states employed over 83,200 workers and had \$24.2 billion in direct output.

Economic Contributions:

Direct Contributions by Industry Group, 2017 (in number of jobs, and thousands of dollars)

Industry Group	Employment	Labor Income	Value-added	Output
Forestry* **	90	\$1,683	\$1,642	\$2,506
Logging*	569	\$25,807	\$27,016	\$39,521
Primary solid wood products	276	\$37,889	\$42,710	\$116,580
Secondary solid wood products	1,268	\$74,468	\$70,756	\$230,835
Wood furniture	2,535	\$209,721	\$194,252	\$450,940
Pulp, paper, and paperboard mills	828	\$86,036	\$119,908	\$611,003
Secondary paperboard and other paper products	2,164	\$176,709	\$216,730	\$964,105
Total	7,730	\$612,313	\$673,015	\$2,415,490

Total Contributions by Industry Group, 2017 (in number of jobs, and thousands of dollars)

Industry Group	Employment	Labor Income	Value-added	Output
Forestry* **	64	\$960	\$1,176	\$2,136
Logging*	278	\$13,343	\$16,156	\$24,085
Primary solid wood products	859	\$74,253	\$99,062	\$197,897
Secondary solid wood products	2,257	\$143,030	\$178,505	\$401,791
Wood furniture	4,480	\$340,479	\$400,878	\$781,487
Pulp, paper, and paperboard mills	3,130	\$260,081	\$388,544	\$1,041,880
Secondary paperboard and other paper products	5,074	\$392,553	\$553,282	\$1,508,395
Total	16,141	\$1,224,699	\$1,637,604	\$3,957,671

*Forestry and Logging are reported in this table; but most of their contributions are as indirect inputs or intermediate inputs that are used in the production in the other five industry groups – part of their jobs is included in the estimates for the other groups.

**In this summary, the forestry group includes maple syrup production.



From: Public Sector Consultants and Douglas Emmerthal and Nicholas Zito. 2020. *Forest Products Industries' Economic Contributions: Connecticut*. Lansing: Public Sector Consultants.

Top Forest Products Industry Sectors in Connecticut:

Top 5 Industry Sectors by Direct Jobs	
Industry Sector	Employment
Wood kitchen cabinet and countertop manufacturing	1,215
Paperboard container manufacturing	1,179
Paper bag and coated and treated paper manufacturing	751
Paper mills	685
Custom architectural woodwork and millwork	549

Top 5 Industry Sectors by Value Added (Thousands)	
Industry Sector	Value Added
Paperboard container manufacturing	\$111,721
Paper mills	\$99,723
Wood kitchen cabinet and countertop manufacturing	\$92,297
Paper bag and coated and treated paper manufacturing	\$79,601
Custom architectural woodwork and millwork	\$45,543

Comparison with Neighboring States:

Forest Products Industries Direct Employment in Connecticut and Adjacent States, 2017

Industry	Connecticut	Massachusetts	New York	Vermont	New Hampshire
Forestry*	90	1,030	1,658	3,342	1,250
Logging	569	835	4,013	1,737	1,732
Primary solid wood products	276	300	2,861	941	1,107
Secondary solid wood products	1,268	2,790	7,113	1,053	1,170
Wood furniture	2,535	3,195	11,791	1,318	1,181
Pulp, paper, and paperboard mills	828	1,845	4,898	641	389
Secondary paperboard and other paper products	2,164	6,087	10,689	76	460
Sum of Direct Contributions	7,730	16,083	43,024	9,107	7,289

*includes maple syrup production.

Forest Products Industries in Context to other Industries:

Natural Resources and Agricultural Production Industries in Connecticut, 2017

Manufacturing Industries	Employment	Labor Income (Thousands)	Value-added (Thousands)	Output (Thousands)
Forest products	7,730	\$612,313	\$673,015	\$2,415,490
Commercial fishing, hunting, and trapping	389	\$19,521	\$43,721	\$44,292
Mining and oil and gas production	3,311	\$286,909	\$706,607	\$989,300
Agricultural production (plant crop and animal)	12,079	\$289,578	\$325,589	\$742,682

About this Bulletin:

This bulletin summarizes economic contributions of forest products industry in Connecticut in 2017, as part of an analysis of the 20 Northeast and Midwest states plus Nebraska supported by a U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service 2017 Landscape Scale Restoration Grant. Several measures of economic contribution are presented below; for more information see the full report at <http://www.northeasternforests.org>. This analysis used 2017 IMPLAN data for 32 industry sectors summarized in 7 industry groups.

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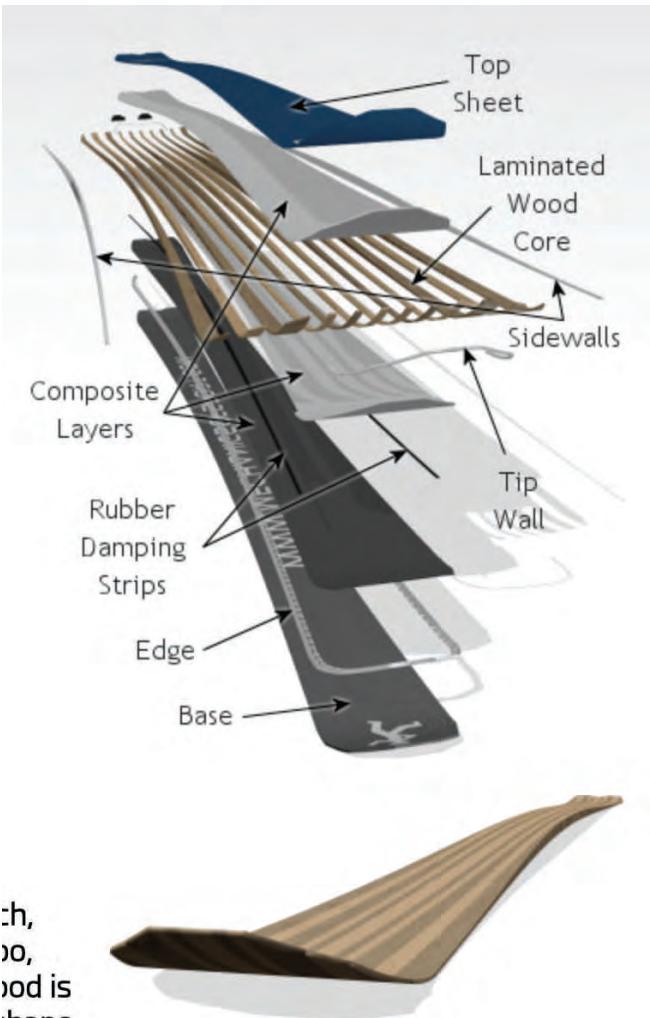
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Bits and Chokers

A November 29 New York Times report highlighted the way the pandemic supply chain problems have affected forest products. DPS Skis, a manufacturer and distributor of mountain sports gear in Salt Lake City, found that it couldn't get the imported supplies it needed to manufacture new skis. So, Alex Adema, the chief executive, had to find new sources – particularly for Paulownia, the Asian native that forms the core of a ski (see below).

While Adema formerly relied on Chinese imports of the hardwood, the source was too delayed by back-ups in ports and other obstacles. At one point as supplies dwindled in October, "we were holding our breath," Mr. Adema said.



But DPS found a supplier of Paulownia in North Carolina, and after much testing, the specifications matched up. "You can't just swap species," Mr. Adema said. "We're excited about getting the wood from North Carolina in terms of sustainability and less environmental imprint. Any time you can throw something on a train in the U.S., it's better than a ship or plane."



THE TREE WITH A PRICE ON ITS HEAD

The Bradford Pear has a price on its head, er... crown. As reported by the New York Times (November 26, 2021), this tree was popularized in the 1960s as the perfect ornamental for suburban homes and streets in the south. They were easily available, could thrive in almost any soil, and had an appealing shape with mahogany-red leaves that lingered deep into the fall and flowers that appeared early in the spring. "Few trees possess every desired attribute," the gardening pages of The New York Times declared in 1964, "but the Bradford ornamental pear comes unusually close to the ideal."

Dr. David Coyle, above right

At a bounty center, below, Bradford pears are exchanged for native hardwoods such as this oak.

Photos courtesy Michael Belleme, The New York Times



But that description couldn't have been farther from the truth. The downsides of the Bradford pear were subtle at first. Its white flowers, as pretty as they were, emitted a fetid odor that smells almost fishy. And as the trees aged, more and more negatives emerged. They had a poor branch structure, leaving them prone to snapping and toppling in storms, sending limbs onto power lines, sidewalks, and the roofs of homes they were supposed to beautify.

Even worse, the Bradford pear was thought to be sterile, but can cross-pollinate with other pear trees, and their seeds are spread widely by birds. So, like zombies, the pear trees began colonizing open fields, farmland, river banks, and ditches, and rising between the pines along the highways

from Georgia up through the Carolinas, edging out native species and upending ecosystems. The trees grow rapidly, climbing to as high as 15 feet within a decade. They can ultimately reach 50 feet high and 30 feet wide. Today the trees are "an unwieldy menace" in a growing swath of the country across the East Coast and reaching into Texas and the Midwest.

In South Carolina, the fight has intensified. The state is in the process of barring the sale and trade of the trees. Professor David Coyle (above), a professor of forest health at Clemson University, tracks plants and insects that have intruded into South Carolina and tries to limit their damage; he has organized "bounty" programs, where people who bring in evidence of a slain tree get a native replacement in return.

Now concern is growing about its parent, the Callery pear. A blight resistant native to East Asia, it was originally brought to the United States by federal researchers who hoped cross breeding with the European pear would bolster fruit production. But scientists recognized its potential as an ornamental tree, spurring the development of the Bradford pear.

The Callery pear, like the Bradford, spreads rapidly, has 3-4 inch thorns that cluster close together, and disrupts life for insects and other plants. "It's a food desert for a bird," Professor Coyle said, noting that the trees do not sustain caterpillars and other herbivorous insects. "There's nothing to eat there."

The trees are not yet banned in Connecticut but scientists and officials see the public "developing a more sophisticated understanding of the consequences that landscaping choices can have."



THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX



The USS Constitution vs HMS Guerriere
Courtesy USS Constitution Museum

OLD IRONSIDES

Aye tear her tattered ensign down
Long has it waved on high,
And many an eye has danced to see
That banner in the sky;
Beneath it rung the battle shout,
And burst the cannon's roar;—
The meteor of the ocean air
Shall sweep the clouds no more.

Her deck, once red with heroes' blood,
Where knelt the vanquished foe,
When winds were hurrying o'er the flood,
And waves were white below,
No more shall feel the victor's tread,
Or know the conquered knee;—
The harpies of the shore shall pluck
The eagle of the sea!

Oh, better that her shattered hulk
Should sink beneath the wave;
Her thunders shook the mighty deep,
And there should be her grave;
Nail to the mast her holy flag,
Set every threadbare sail,
And give her to the god of storms,
The lightning and the gale!

her sides are made of iron!"

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr immortalized the moment in his poem "Old Ironsides," written on September 16, 1830.

The poem became a rallying cry when the Constitution, retired in 1881, was designated for scrap. She was saved but that presented a challenge: her periodic repair and refitting can only be carried out with white oak – and not just any white oak.

The trees must be at least 200 years old to provide the necessary planks. So the Navy purchased and now nurtures its own white oak forest at Naval Support Activity Crane, near Bloomington, Indiana.

On that property, the U.S. Navy maintains "Constitution Grove," where a forest of white oaks is grown for the sole purpose of restoring and refitting the USS Constitution, the oldest commissioned vessel still sailing.

Overseen by three Navy civilian foresters, NAS Crane is the third largest naval base in the world. Constitution Grove is not only protected for the white oak trees, but also the biological diversity an oak forest provides.

The foresters provide careful management ensuring that while old growth forest is removed from time to time, middle aged trees (70 to 80 years old) are in good health for the future and white oaks will create new saplings for as long as Constitution is afloat.

Would it surprise you to know that wood is still critical to our Navy? If so, read on about the Navy's white oak forest in Indiana.

One reason is the need to repair historic ships such as the USS Constitution. As reported by Blake Stilwell on the Military History website (www.military.com/history/why-us-navy-manages-its-own-private-forest.html), the USS Constitution was "among the strongest, fastest and most powerful ships of the day."

Launched in 1797, she became known as "Old Ironsides" after a battle with the HMS Guerriere in 1812. Thrilled when the British ship's cannonballs literally bounced off the sides of the Constitution's 22" thick hull, the sailors supposedly shouted, "Huzzah,

THERE ARE STILL SOME AWESOME WOODEN TOY TRUCKS LEFT!
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PO Box 508
Oneco, CT 06373

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021-2022

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@gmail.com

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE
TIMPROCT.ORG
FOR LISTINGS**

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.**