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CONNECTICUT PROFESSIONAL TIMBER PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

The Cutting Edge

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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.

PLANT SCIENCE DAY, AUGUST 4, 2021

By Mike Hinman

Founded 1875

Plant Science Day held August 4th at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's Lockwood Farm in Hamden was very well attended. The Timpro booth was staffed by Kyle Breutsch, Debbie Hinman, and myself.

Questions asked included "Are there any sawmills in the State or are there any tree cutters and/or loggers so I can harvest and custom saw my wood?" We explained the arborist booth was across the way and larger tracts could be cut by a logger. After looking at our display board, people asked what is a managed forest? We explained that its healthier, takes more carbon dioxide out, and puts more oxygen back into the atmosphere. The best question was whether our free wooden carpenter pencils were made from trees. Discussions about insects and defoliation were quite common. Experiment Station employees spoke on many topics along with interesting displays and one on one discussions.

The Agricultural Experiment Station grows fruits, vegetables, hops, grapes and hemp among many other things. Mark your calendar for an enjoyable and informative day next year.

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.

CONNECTICUT LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

Reporting on the recent Connecticut Legislative Session that officially ended in June, our Legislative Liaison Joan Nichols told the TIMPRO Board that the truck mileage tax passed. Two amendments to the Forest Practices Act failed to make it to a final vote. Timpro will continue to pursue these changes that would benefit the forest products industry.

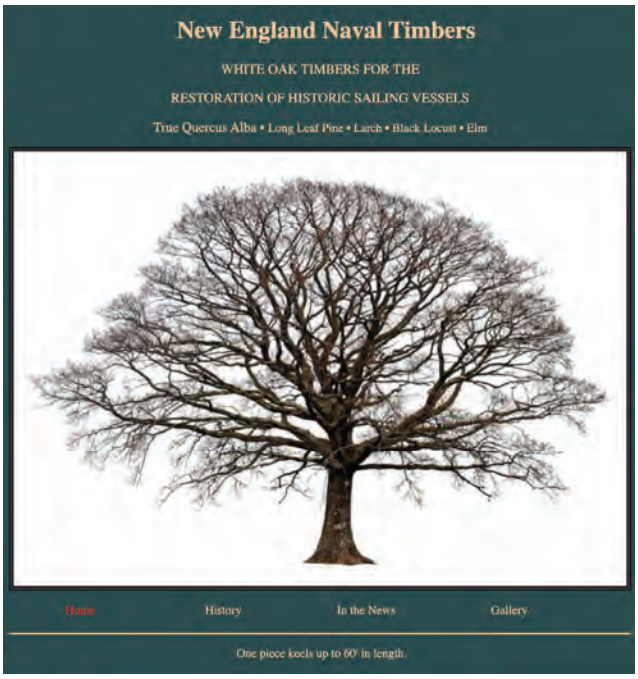
The controversial truck mileage bill, HB 6688, will go into effect January 1, 2023. It is expected to generate an estimated $90 million in revenue for infrastructure funding per year by implementing a costly Highway Use Tax on truckers only. Fees would range from 2.5 cents per mile for vehicles weighing 26,000 to 28,000 pounds up to 17.5 cents per mile for trucks weighing over 80,000 pounds. Dairy trucks will be exempt from the tax under some circumstances

The tax will impact loggers moving timber products between Connecticut and the neighboring states of New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

Still to be considered is the amendment to allow a grace period for practitioner licenses. It is still in limbo because of the pandemic disruption of the legislative session. A second bill still to be considered is an amendment to require that at least one member of the Forest Practices Advisory Board, established in 1991, represent the forest products industry.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER CHARLES 'DUKE' BESOZZI

Charles "Duke" Besozzi, one of our newest members, specializes in the white oak (*Quercus alba*) materials needed to build or restore wooden ships. His company, New England Naval Timbers, operates two mills, one of which can saw out to 60' and the other to 45'. The 60-footer can saw 5'6" in diameter. Searching New England for the highest quality *Q. alba*, he is able to provide one-piece keels which are much stronger than scarf joints. The availability of large high-quality trees is critical. In our Spring 2021 issue (#1), we highlighted "The Great Mast Crisis" – the embargo of white pine shipments to the British during the Revolutionary War. As the British found, the loss of American white pine forced their navy to make do with jointed masts, a weakness that contributed to their humiliating defeat at the hands of the French navy.



MEET 2021 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER RACHAEL TROWBRIDGE

Growing up in a logging family has made forests "an intrinsic part of my heritage" Rachael Trowbridge wrote in her TIMPRO CT scholarship application. "'Take your Daughter to Work Day' consisted of sitting on a skidder with my dad as he stacked logs on the job site."

But knowledge of the woods is only one facet of Trowbridge's experience. She is also an accomplished entrepreneur making and marketing goat's milk soap from her own small herd.

"I've raised goats since I was 7," Trowbridge said. A graduate of Lyman Memorial High School, she always wanted to make soap but going from that idea to the reality took many steps.

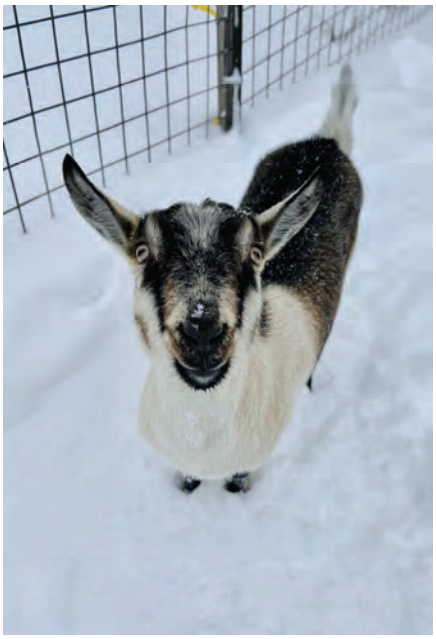
One was learning to make the soap itself, a process involving, among other things, milking the goats, freezing the milk, using a stick mixer to incorporate ingredients such as shea butter and coconut oils, forming the bars in molds, and then curing them for 3-4 weeks. She infuses the bars with oils from sustainable sources and offers 25 different scents.

To market the soap, Trowbridge established her own business, Magical Meadow Farm. Starting at farm stands, she expanded to 5 outlets. Along the way, she created a website, set up Facebook and Instagram accounts, and designed her own labels.

That enterprise will wind down now that she is going to the University of New Hampshire. But she has reserved some stock to sell during the holidays.

Recipient of the 2021 Eastern Connecticut Conservation District Conservation Hero Award, Trowbridge carried out a bird survey project in 2020 as part of her study with the UConn Natural Resources Conservation Academy.

After learning mapping and field techniques, she worked with Audubon representative Aaron Burke conducting morning and evening field observations in different habitats from the end of August to early October.



Three summers in a nature photography camp prepared her to take photographs for her final spread sheet detailing what birds she saw or heard and when and where she spotted them. The final story map was so impressive she was invited to speak on photography at a UConn Extension conference.

Despite her busy schedule, she is active in the FFA and also volunteers with 3-6 year olds at the local library.

Her goal is to "create ways of optimizing how we manage our forests and topography to increase biodiversity, production, and soil quality." With her impressive range of skills and experience, Trowbridge is clearly headed to success.

Rachael Trowbridge designed her company label herself and has reserved some goat milk soaps to sell over the holidays. Her goats are raised on the family's Hampton, CT farm.

All photos courtesy of Rachael Trowbridge.

MEET SCHOLARSHIP WINNER EMERSON ERNEST LELAND RINEHART, IV

You might say Emerson Rinehart was born to be a forester. In his TIMPRO scholarship-winning essay, he described how his earliest memories were of the trees his parents, both foresters, pointed out to him: sweet gum when they lived in South Carolina, walnut trees when they moved to Ohio, and now pines and sycamores in their northwest Connecticut home.

"My parents," he wrote, "taught me to value the details, to notice every bark, leaf, and seed."

Rinehart, a graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School, will take this stored knowledge with him when he attends the University of Maine this fall to study Forest Ecology.

He will bring other skills as well. A baritone in the school choir, he also worked on the theater crew for "The Sound of Music" and took classes in woodworking and art photography along with his science courses. In fact, he just got a new camera and is excited about taking wildlife photos.

Most of all, he will bring his enthusiasm for challenging studies and the outdoors. One advisor commended his "intelligence and phenomenal work ethic" and noted the "creativity and insight that he brings to each of his classes."

Another teacher commended not just his maturity but also insisted he is anything but stuffy. She described how before Thanksgiving break he and some friends surprised an early morning AP class by putting out a Thanksgiving spread complete with a large roast chicken, mashed potatoes, and stuffing. Rinehart admits, "I did most of the cooking. There's definitely room for improvement."

Outside the classroom, Rinehart spent part of a summer as a student volunteer at the Punta Mala Sea Turtle Conservation Program in Costa Rica. "It was the summer of my sophomore year," he explained. "I saved up all year to go and work with the staff at the reserve. We patrolled the beaches at night to stop poachers from taking the turtle eggs."

Rinehart will go to Maine early in August for a special class offered to Honors college students. "It will start with camping out but the program continues all year with service and community work," he said. He'll be sorry to leave behind his younger brother and older sister as well as two cats, a dog, and a pet cockatiel named Turtle.

Thinking of his future, Rinehart said, "I've been very privileged in the way I've grown up. For me, a career in forest ecology means the opportunity to make a living where I'm most at home – in the woods."

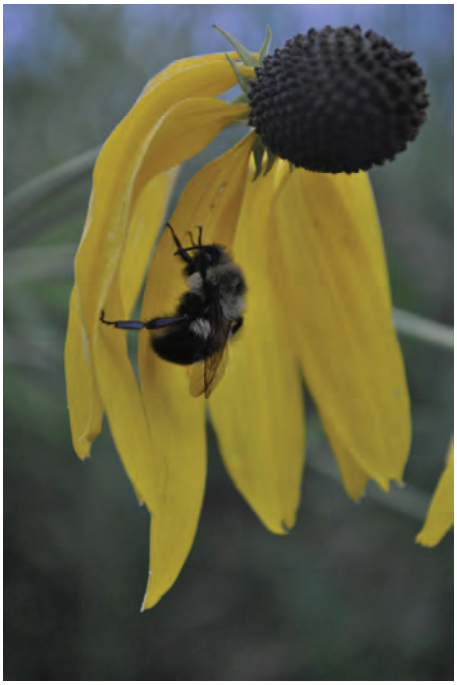
EMERSON RINEHART PHOTO GALLERY

Black capped chickadee

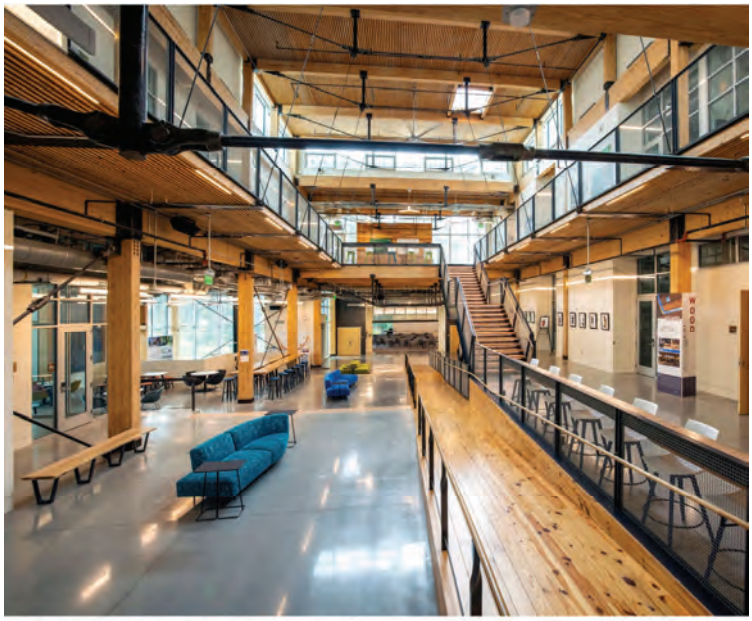
The Costa Rican group. Emerson is front row, 3rd from the right.

A spiny tailed iguana in Costa Rica

A bee pollinating a black-eyed susan.



DECONSTRUCTION: BUILDINGS THAT GIVE BACK



Twenty-five thousand linear feet of two-by-four wooden planks was salvaged from Atlanta film sets and incorporated into the Kendeda Building. Audra Melton for The New York Times

If you've ever played with Legos or Lincoln Logs, you're already familiar with the concept of a Circular Economy: materials for one purpose are designed to be reused for other purposes when no longer needed. Like Lego blocks and Lincoln Logs, building materials can be designed to be taken apart and used in new configurations.

The Circular Economy system will impact how we operate in the forest products industry - from the moment a tree is felled to how it is sawn into structural timber to what happens when its building is demolished.

In other words, buildings will be designed and constructed to give back, just like Legos and Lincoln Logs.

A Sept 1, 2021 article by New York Times reporter Lisa Prevost looked at the emergence of "deconstruction ordinances," codes to ensure that architectural designs and specifications enable this kind of recycling of building materials.

Portland, Oregon is a leader. Prevost interviewed Shawn Wood, a construction waste specialist for the city, who believes it is the first municipality requiring that certain homes be deconstructed rather than demolished. "Just in the past year or two, the conversation around deconstruction and reuse has really catapulted," he said. The ordinance applies to all single-family houses built in 1940 or earlier. Wood said the city decided to limit the ordinance to mostly wood-framed structures because they are easier to deconstruct than later builds that use adhesives and engineered lumber. Among the cities that already have deconstruction ordinances are Milwaukee, Palo Alto, and San Jose. Now Pittsburgh and San Antonio are also working on deconstruction initiatives. Even Google is getting into the act. With offices in more than 150 cities globally, Google has a corporate interest in reuse.

But Prevost describes challenges to scaling up the effort for large commercial projects. For one thing, using salvaged materials isn't necessarily a money saver if the materials have to be refurbished and stored. And older materials don't necessarily adhere to new building codes and certifications, raising potential liability issues. In addition, structures built in the 1960s or later often include more composite materials that are difficult to take apart and reuse.

Jason F. McLennan, the chief executive of McLennan Design and the creator of the Living Building Challenge, an exacting sustainability certification, pointed out, "There isn't a salvage economy in the U.S. for commercial buildings. There is a small underground one for residential projects. You have the Habitat for Humanity Re-Stores around the country, the independent salvage yards and eBay, and stuff online, but the market tends to be more residential in nature."

Prevost highlighted the Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, [see our cover], as an example of what's possible. It was designed to meet the Living Building Challenge, which requires, among other standards, incorporating 1 salvaged item for every 500 square meters of design.

But the project's construction manager, Jimmy Mitchell, a sustainability engineer at Skanska USA, aimed for "massive salvage." So he asked the Lifecycle Building Center, an Atlanta store that sells donated materials for reuse, to source as many used two-by-fours as it could get. The boards would be incorporated into the building's wooden floor decks, alternated between new two-by-sixes, which would hold up the weight. The two-by-fours would function as spacers, creating an aesthetically pleasing pattern.

Lifecycle came through with 25,000 linear feet of two-by-fours, all salvaged from television and movie sets from Georgia's film industry. That was enough, when nailed together with the new boards, to form 125 floor panels of the 498 required. The design team also used materials from campus buildings undergoing renovations. Thick pine boards from one became stair treads and slate roof tiles from another were refashioned into bathroom wall tiling.

Felix Heisel, an assistant professor of architecture at Cornell and director of the Circular Construction Lab, said, "What is being built right now is almost impossible to take apart in ways that support high-quality recycling and reuse." His students are studying how to design, build and manage buildings so that components can be easily moved from one building to the next. Each built environment would effectively become a material depot for future projects.

Heisel concluded, "The use cycles of buildings are getting shorter and shorter. So every building at some point will either be remodeled or taken down. We should be planning for the disassembly and reutilization of all in advance."

The Kendeda Building on the campus of Georgia Tech in Atlanta is designed to meet rigorous reuse standards. Audra Melton for The New York Times

Photos of Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, courtesy The New York Times.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

WOULD YOU WEAR WOOD?

If you ever wear a rayon shirt, you were wearing wood without realizing it. Rayon is made from viscose, a material first fabricated from regenerated cellulose, usually from eucalyptus trees, by French industrialist Hilaire de Chardinnet (1838-1924). It was patented in 1894 by British chemist Edward John Bevan and Clayton Beadle as a cheap substitute for silk.

But while cheap in price, it was costly in environmental impact requiring chemical processing that sickened factory workers and released toxins into the air and water.

For a while, cotton looked like a better choice. But cotton is a thirsty plant requiring extensive use of pesticides and herbicides. Cotton tote bags were originally hailed as a replacement for plastic shopping bags. But a 2018 study by Denmark's Ministry of Environment and Food determined it takes 20,000 uses to offset that cost. The study calculated that much use would take 54 years!

Even organic cotton is costly to the environment. Now the recent growing demand for clothing produced in an ethical and a sustainable manner is giving wood-based fabric a much higher profile.

The most dramatic example of wood-based clothing was Oprah Winfrey's dress (right) for the 2018 wedding of Meghan Markle to Prince Harry. While the biggest story was how designer Stella McCartney, daughter of Beatle Paul McCartney, designed and made the dress overnight for Oprah, much attention was also paid to the sustainable viscose-based fabric.

Oprah's dress brought glamour to the whole idea of sustainability – a glamour now showing up in other wood-based products, such as the German company Wiljd's t-shirts (below). It advertises its "wooden T-shirts" as a "cool" product that relies on certified sustainable forestry with minimal water use and a good carbon footprint. It claims the result is a super soft material with anti-bacterial properties. Plus, the workers are paid fair wages and given good working conditions.

None of this is cheap to produce. But as it scales up, there is hope for a future in which clothing will give back to the environment as much as it takes out.

THERE ARE STILL SOME AWESOME WOODEN TOY TRUCKS LEFT!
YOUR PURCHASE WILL GO TO OUR 2021 LOG A LOAD CAMPAIGN.

.

DONATE $50 FOR THIS HANDCRAFTED WOODEN "BIG RIG."

DONATE $40 FOR THIS HANDCRAFTED WOODEN "LITTLE LOGGER

USE THE DONATION FORM BELOW.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____

CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP _____

SEND ME THE "BIG RIG." (NUMBER) _____ SEND ME THE "LITTLE LOGGER." (NUMBER) _____

MY CHECK FOR _____ IS ENCLOSED.
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TIMPRO CT. INDICATE "LOG A LOAD" ON THE MEMO LINE.

SEND CHECKS TO TREASURER, TIMPRO CT, PO BOX 508, ONECOI, CT 06373

PO Box 508
Oneco, CT 06373

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021

CT Professional Timber Producers Association

Look for mailings or check the website for further details and any changes to the Calendar of Events.

Ideas for classes you would like offered?

Contact TIMPRO CT:

PO Box 508

Oneco, CT 06373

860-948-0432

info@timproct.org

Articles, ideas, pictures you'd like to see?

hallie.metzger@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.