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# *The Cutting Edge*



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Townsend

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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

### MEET NEW BOARD MEMBER, ALTERNATE CRYSTAL GILLOTTI

Meet new Board Alternate Crystal Gillotti, CEO and co-owner with Mike Gillotti of Timbercreek Firewood & Logging, LLC in Torrington, Connecticut, right, with Ash, her 3-month old Australian Shepherd. "We got her at the last Woodsman Field Day. She goes just about everywhere with us," says Crystal.

Although Crystal ran a convenience store for 22 years before turning to forestry, she has already earned a Supervisor of Forest Products Harvester license, has a Class A license, and can run all the equipment at Timbercreek. Her change of career came about almost as an afterthought. "I delivered coffee one day to Mike," she said. "We had mutual friends, it was cold, I hung around at the woodlot and got interested." That was almost 4 years ago. "It was like, 'here, try this.' Now we work for the same land clearing company and I drive the trucks and bring logs to the mill. When the spot on the Board opened, I figured I could make a difference." She's already working with Board member Stanley Burr putting together donations from local loggers to our Log A Load campaign.



### WHERE IN THE WORLD? SWEDEN

This June, *Northern Logger* Editor Eileen Townsend attended ElmiaWood, a Swedish forest products expo held once every 4 years. It's the largest loggers expo in the world. The boreal forest in Sweden differs greatly from our mixed evergreen deciduous stands. In addition, massive logging in the previous century led to reforestation resulting in even-aged evergreen stands under intense management. Another difference is the much tighter legislation covering loggers – everything from safety equipment to environmental protection to timber cutting guidelines. Henry Gundlach, our TIMPRO Vice President, accompanied Townsend. See pages 8 to 9 for an edited version of a Northern Logger blog as well as additional comments Gundlach shared with *The Cutting Edge*.

#### 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](http://www.timproct.org).



## UPDATE ON PORTLAND SAWMILL



In 2019, *The Cutting Edge* profiled Jim Moore, new sawyer of the Portland sawmill, the only remaining sawmill owned by the State of Connecticut. Since then, Moore has worked tirelessly to repair and operate the existing sawmill so that he can provide wood products ranging from picnic tables to State of Connecticut shield signs that greet visitors to the parks and forests. Along the way, Moore has collaborated with the state tech school system providing real world sawmill repair projects to students learning Precision Machining at Cheney Tech.

This August, Moore made a special presentation at the TIMPRO Board meeting to bring us up to date on his work. "First, I settled into my role as

DEEP's sawyer," he said, "trying to understand the sawmill's production level requirements." In 2020, during the height of COVID, he noted, he provided about 650 tables and sawed 122,000 board feet out of 1,584 logs sawn. In 2021, it was only 550 tables but he sawed 161,000 board feet out of 2,083 logs sawn by adding a new edger into the mix. "Now I'm working toward modernizing the sawmill with money that was bonded specifically for retooling and modernization. Manufacturers are out there and we're still trying to work out procurement. There are lot of options but COVID has created huge supply chain obstacles. We don't have purchase orders in place yet but we do have a plan. We've already completed an electrical upgrade." As with any state project, the sawmill upgrade takes a lot of planning. "We only get one chance at this. Many people in Connecticut don't know about the state sawmill or what we're doing, so we need to do this right." Moore said. But they can see and use the results he gets.



Top: Picnic tables produced at the Portland sawmill.

Above: Jim Moore with his Woodworking for Wildlife bird boxes.

Photos courtesy of Jim Moore



## MEET 2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER COLDEN WILLIAMSON



Photo courtesy of Colden Williamson

Colden Williamson comes by his vocation for the environment naturally. As he wrote in his scholarship essay, "My mother, a radical plant, bug, and bird lover, pushed me to respect nature and everything the earth has to hold. My father, an avid hunter/hiker who just finished climbing the 46ers, taught me how to appreciate and respect the wildlife I take out of this world." His mother is head grower for a big Connecticut nursery. That means an "awesome house full of plants."

Most influential of all was his Great Grandfather Clarence Petty, a forester in the Adirondack parks and a key conservationist. [See profile on adjoining page.]

A recent graduate of Northwestern Regional High School in Winsted, Colden took the courses you would expect such as Field Ecology and Environmental Science. But he also took classes in American Sign Language and Agricultural Construction and Fabrication. When in-person classes were suspended during the pandemic, he had more time to work for a landscaping company and gained a practical experience of logging and tree care. "Feels good to be in school, though" he commented.

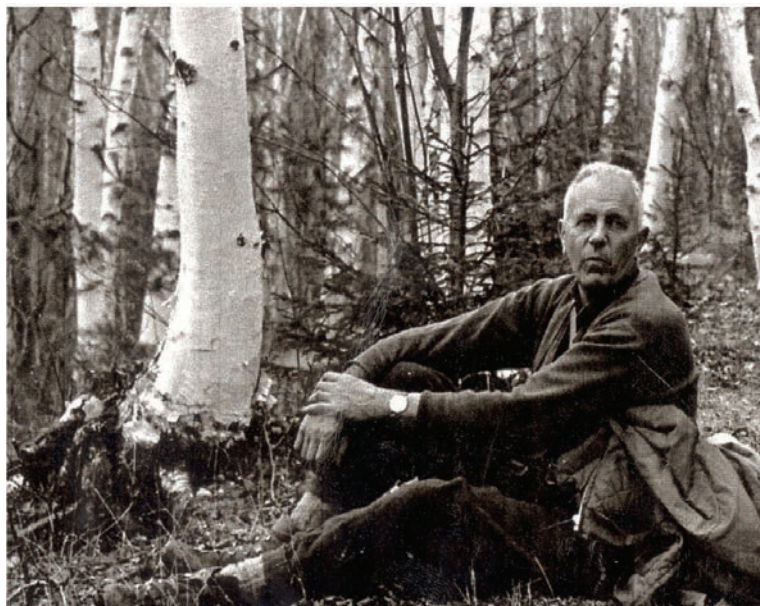
For two summers he taught forestry and firearm safety courses at Green Mountain Conservation Camp. "Kids come from all over - Alaska, Vermont - for a week," he said. An experienced hunter himself, he noted, "The main point was to create ethical hunters who are responsible in the woods. They take the tests for their hunting and archery hunting licenses. I also taught backpacking. That meant teaching them what to pack and taking thirty 12-years olds on a 6 ½ mile hike."

Colden is now at Paul Smith's College in New York, which his older brother Masen also attended, planning to major in Ecological Forest Management. One of his courses is Geographic Information Systems where he is learning to create maps to guide fire-fighting. "You have to know what's happening on the ground, if you're going to fight fires," he said.

After graduation, he hopes to become a wildland firefighter in the West. "Why wildland firefighting?" he posed in his essay. "I love tree work, fires, and protecting the natural resources that allow us to live good, healthy meaningful lives."

## GREAT GRANDFATHER CLARENCE PETTY

When Colden Williamson referred to his great-grandfather Clarence Petty as a “forester in the Adirondacks and key conservationist,” he was being modest. There literally would not be an Adirondacks National Park if it weren’t for Clarence Petty. Petty, who died Nov. 30, 2009 at the age of 104, devoted himself to preserving the land he knew intimately from childhood on.



As his New York Times obituary recorded, he was born Aug. 8, 1905, in Crown Point, N.Y., grew up in a small house with no plumbing or electricity on the edge of the wilderness, and spent his days with his brothers hiking, fishing, trapping and, for a time, hanging out in the woods with a man known as the Hermit of Cold River. At 11, he hiked 16 miles into town every Sunday night and stayed there all week to

attend school ultimately earning a bachelor’s degree from the State College of Forestry in Syracuse.

During WWII, Petty served as a Navy pilot flying plasma to embattled islands in the South Pacific. Returning home, he became a district ranger in Cranberry Lake with the Conservation Department, now the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Combining his forestry and flight skills, he was the first person in the state to fight forest fires using lake water dumped from an airplane. He also trained hundreds of fliers at his school in Potsdam, N.Y., from 1967 until 2000, when, at 95, he sold his planes.

In the late 1950s, he and a colleague conducted a three-year survey of thousands of acres in the park. For decades Mr. Petty defended what he called the Dacks, a 5.8-million-acre oasis of publicly owned and private land in upstate New York that is considered the last great wilderness in the Eastern United States.

In his mid-60s, at the request of then New York Governor Nelson A Rockefeller, he mapped the most remote regions of the park traveling on his own and paddling and portaging his canoe along more than 1,300 miles of rivers and streams. His work helped the state designate which tracts would be wilderness and which would be wild forest, a critical distinction as wilderness is totally off limits to snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, motorboats and seaplanes. Into his late 90s, he spoke at public hearings, gave lectures, and typed letters to legislators.

Criticized for opposing development in the Adirondacks Park, he once said, “I would be just as pleased if I could stand on the Capitol steps in Albany and look towards Montreal and not see a damn thing except wilderness.”

“Not all people feel they need to have wilderness, but I do,” he said in a 2005 New York Times article. “If things go bad and everything seems to go wrong, the best place to go is right into the remote wilderness, and everything’s in balance there.”

For more information, his obituary is available on line. <https://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/06/science/earth/o6petty.html>



## MEET 2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER RHIANNON MARTIN

"It was evident from day one that Rhiannon was smart, willing to learn, disciplined, and hardworking." That description of Rhiannon Martin, one of our two 2022 Scholarship winners, was offered by Bryan Decker, her supervisor at Quinebaug State Fish Hatchery, where she started as a volunteer four years ago. She so impressed the staff there that they got her a paid position as soon as they could. Rhiannon recently received a Silver National Proficiency Award from the FFA in the Wildlife Production category for her work at the hatchery.

Now at Three Rivers Community College, Rhiannon, a graduate of Killingly High School in Dayville, accomplished this while also excelling in her studies at school and giving time to extracurricular activities such as Concert and Chamber Choirs and musical productions such as the Killingly production of "Mamma Mia." In fact, her course work concentrated on both Environmental Science and Musical Arts. Yet she still had time to serve as a Class Officer, volunteer for the Red Cross, participate in the FFA, win a varsity letter in field hockey, and serve as Official Board of Education Student Representative from 2021 to graduation.

No wonder Rhiannon said in an interview, "My senior year of high school was intense. Now I'm trying to focus more on enjoying college and on my classes. I had a hard time picking them. I'm taking college Algebra, Principles of Environmental Science, Geomatics and Spatial Analysis (land surveying systems, lots of trig but it's cool), also public speaking and on Fridays a 1-credit environmental research project that puts me in the Three Rivers United Environmentalists. It's a fun community - all about talking to people about sustainable ways of doing jobs in Connecticut. There's a lot of math and science but mostly it's focused on the environmental portion." She hopes to receive an Associate degree in Environmental Engineering Technology and then transfer to a four-year college.

Rhiannon is grateful to TIMPRO for the scholarship. "My financial support is very limited," she wrote in her application. During high school she found time to work for a catering company and serve as an Official Ballot Clerk for the Town of Griswold. She'll continue catering and working at the trout hatchery while she commutes to school three days a week and may also get involved in local musical groups. Commuting also gives her time with her two cats, the older Raven and Belladonna, a kitten.

Rhiannon reflected in her scholarship essay, "I have experienced a variety of challenges throughout my high school journey, especially through my time in the Killingly [HS] Agricultural Education Program. It has shaped the decisions of my future goals in various levels of my life. I am a driven individual and I'm dedicated to working in the realm of environmental protection and marine conservation because my passion for protecting natural resources runs deep within my veins. I am willing to take steps to further my education and I am beyond excited to see where this journey takes me!"





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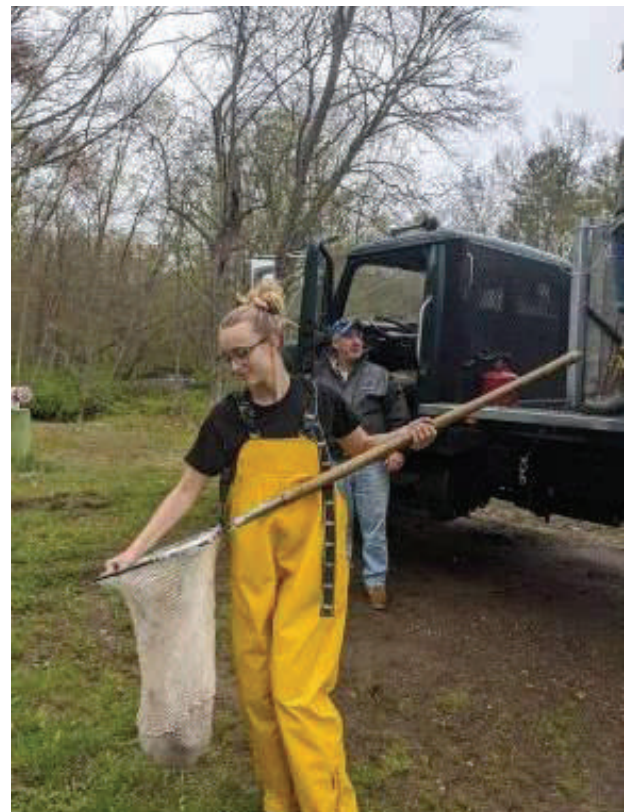
Top: Holding a Sea Robin

This page:

Above: Conducting a tour of the hatchery for Killingly FFA Freshmen.

Right: Stocking fish at Ashford.

Photos courtesy of Rhiannon Martin







## Bits and Chokers

### HENRY GUNDLACH AT ELMIAWOOD

Henry Gundlach said at the start of the *Northern Logger* blog, "I knew I would see lot of cut-to-length equipment. I was surprised to see they make harvesters very small. They manage their woods much more intensely than we do. I got to talk to people from several different countries." [Eileen Townsend noted that it feels like a 'tree garden.'] "One reason the management is so intense is that they can't afford to waste wood. People with even 5 or 10-acre woodlots – they work them," added Gundlach.

Seeing the differences in equipment, Gundlach noted, "Here I couldn't use some of the small forwarders because it wouldn't lift some of the wood we typically handle. But I can see niches for some of the smaller equipment especially because it costs so much money to move bigger equipment. in Connecticut you have to have a permit to move anything that we use now. Plus here if you ask to cross a neighbor's land, they can say 'no.' It's a different way of thinking. So I don't see a market for smaller equipment." Interestingly, he learned that in Sweden loggers have a higher status than farmers, the reverse of what it is here.

Economically speaking, the wood is so small. One question Gundlach considered is how they make it work. But he says that the Swedes really don't have any choice but to thin the stands when they're small and dense. They understand that they need to do it even if it's a break-even thing.

Gundlach also observed the consolidation of sawmills similar to what has happened here. "There are some portable band mills," he said. "But right now, sawmill business in NE has been going to big mills. The rise in fossil fuels makes it more expensive to truck material. Plus no one wants it in their backyard. There are very few hand cutters left. In CT, maybe 50% still hand cut because of land."

Above: Swedish presenter in safety gear.

Left: Gundlach and Sam Lincoln of Maine inspect stacked wood.





"Things will have to settle out. I could see most of the timber was straight softwood – more easily harvestable than what we have," he said. "But it's rougher to process the wood we're trying to cut in my area. Crooked tops and things we deal with here are much harder on the processor. There's still a little bit of hand work left but not much. The markets are probably no different here than they are there but there is not so much opportunity in Sweden as here for alternative sources of income. My industry is low pay. It's hard to get youths interested in it. In Sweden, children are exposed to it and say, 'Wow, it's a nice way to make a living.' "

Asked what lessons he could take away from the trip, Gundlach answered, "If we want to do a better job in Connecticut, we need people who are interested in forestry – landowners and loggers both. Swedes really work their woodlands, big and small. Here people don't place a value on it. People who work the woods there are held to much higher standards. Here we're so diversified, you can find protesters for anything." He ended, though, on a note of hope: "We're a young country. Maybe we'll work this way in the future."



Equipment displays above and below were a major draw at ElmiaWood.

All photos courtesy of Eileen Townsend, *The Northern Logger*





## THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

### THE GUEDELON PROJECT



Imagine building a structure from the roof down – no foundation, no walls, just starting from the top with no foundation. In a way, that's what the Guedelon Project is doing.

Founded in 1995, the Project is an exercise in "experimental archeology." Workers are building a castle to the specifications of French nobleman Gilbert Courtenay who started construction in 1253 before he went off to the Crusades leaving his wife to supervise the work.

Unlike the process of restoration, which offers workers direct evidence of what was there and, often, how it was built, the Guedelon Project requires workers to configure it all, from basic tools to modes of craftsmanship. Along the way, Guedelon artisans are providing valuable information to craftsmen restoring the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris after a fire nearly destroyed it in 2019.

For example, there's Stephane Boudy, one of a small team of carpenters working at Guedelon since 1999. He has learned that splitting wood by hand preserves the heart of the resulting beam for strength and resili-

ence. "We have 25 years experience of cutting, squaring, and hewing wood by hand," the Guedelon website quoted him as saying. "We've been doing it every day for 25 years...If this place didn't exist, perhaps experts would have said: 'No, it's not possible to reproduce the roof of Notre Dame.' It is. This isn't just nostalgia. If Notre Dame's roof lasted 800 years, it's because of this. There's no heart in sawmill wood."



Above: A medieval 15th century carpenter with lathe.

Image courtesy of Die Hausbücher der Nürnberger Zwölfbrüderstiftunge

Left: A Guedelon craftsman hews beams using period implements.

Image courtesy Guedelon Project website



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DONATE \$40 FOR THIS HANDCRAFTED WOODEN "LITTLE LOGGER"



USE THE DONATION FORM BELOW.

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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, ONECO, CT 06373



PO Box 508  
Oneco, CT 06373

**CT Professional Timber  
Producers Association**

**Look for mailings or check the  
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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.