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Cover art: Deborah Roach

Insert: Scholarship information

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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 MAKES ITS ANNUAL LOG A LOAD DONATION

Despite the restrictions caused by the pandemic, we raised \$3500 for Log A Load.

While the pandemic prevented an in-person ceremony, the check was sent in. We owe a special thanks to all our donors. See the list of donors on the facing page.

TIMPRO OPENS APPLICATION PROCESS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year we offer two single-grant scholarships of \$500 each to students planning to attend a two or four-year school of higher education for careers in environment resource management, conservation of natural resources, and other related fields. Please share the application information in this issue with your local schools. The application form is available on our website. Spread the word!

DEEP FORESTERS RETIRE

State Lands Forester Emery Gluck has retired after a 40+ year career, most of it spent managing Cockaponset and Nehantic State Forests. He also volunteered at the Connecticut Forest and Park Association's Whitney Forest in Lebanon. In addition, he served on Connecticut's Interstate Fire Crew. He responded to emergency calls while also applying prescribed burns, especially to enhance habitat for grassland birds. He will be sorely missed but we welcome his successor Alex Amendola (p.4)

Also retired is State Lands Forester Ed McGuire after 25 years in Shenipsit, Nipmuck, and Nye Holman State Forests. He also provided assistance to Natchaug and Goodwin State Forests. He was dedicated to restoring oak stands and was an active wildland firefighter. McGuire will be missed by all.

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.

Log a Load Donors 2021

Can-Am Trading & Logistics LLC, Old Lyme, Ct

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MEET NEW STATE LANDS FORESTER ALEX AMENDOLA



Alexander Amendola, the new State Lands Manager for Cockaponset and Nehantic State Forests, admits his start was not as poetic as he would have liked. "I needed a job after high school. I answered an ad for a small private company that did Christmas tree farms and forestry. The ad promised the job would be 'great athletic conditioning.' But when I started, forestry was not my career path."

Yet he certainly had plenty of exposure to the outdoors. A New Haven native, he attended The Sound School and received a BA in Forest Resource Management from Unity College in Maine.

Amendola brings unusual skills to his new position – among other things, he is certified to operate a drone. As a Forester for the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority two years ago, he saw a few drone presentations and asked if he could study for the test and get one. "It's a complicated test – actually a pilot's test," he explained. "You have to

know the same things even if you're not actually flying. I have done dozens of drone flights. DEEP now has someone doing them and I hope I'll get to do it too. It's a different way of accounting for tree heights and such. You can stitch together aerial photos and make 3-D models of a forest. It's an excellent way to document regeneration as you can get better images of the same harvest."

Amendola is especially interested in Managed Migration and notes that sugar maple "realistically won't compete well here as the climate changes." He is grateful to Emery Gluck who planned for increasing underrepresented species such as pitch pine and scrub oak which represent imperiled ecosystems. "That's one of my passions," he said. "I saw a butternut tree the other day. I'd love to multiply that. It's all about healthy forest management. We just want to keep the forest vigorous so it can resist whatever the future throws at it."

He created some climate resiliency plantings on the water company land with more southerly species such as sweet gum. One day he even came across a cucumber magnolia! "We're at the northern end of this species but in a 100 years we could be right in the middle of its new range," he said.

An avid hunter, birder, fisherman, Amendola also has an indoor interest involving trees: Bonsai. "Most people think of Asian species when they think of bonsai but many North American species can be miniaturized as well. [see bonsai white pine opposite page.] I have dozens I've started from seeds or transplants," he said with enthusiasm. "You start with 'sticks in pots' and work up. It has to be proportionate," he explained. He is now President of the Greater New Haven Bonsai Society whose workshops and events draw experts from all around the world. Thousands of people attend the Society's show in Edgerton Park in Hamden.

Photos above and opposite page courtesy of Alex Amendola

At home, he and his wife Alexis care for Aurora, an elderly rescue Pitbull, along with two cockatiels and two parakeets (Leaf, Twig, River, and Nature).

Thinking about how he reached his new position, Amendola remembers taking a test in high school that was supposed to tell him what profession might best suit him: "The results said I should be a forester or butcher and I remember thinking how off base that was. Then I took a dendrology course and knew Forestry was right for me. I'm lucky."

FOREST PRACTICES ADVISORY BOARD REPORT

At an October 28 Zoom Meeting of the Forest Practices Advisory Board, Chris Martin presented a new CT Forest Action Plan that has been approved by USDA. In other actions:



- ♦ CT Farm Bureau objects to House Bill 6688 because implementation hasn't been figured out and there is no tracking system to know which truckers owe the tax. Also, the General Assembly only exempted bulk milk truckers. There is no clear information on how the law will be administered. The state may have to revert to tolls in order to catch every single trucker traveling on CT highways.
- ♦ The NAASF Connecticut Fact Sheet for 2017 documented total economic contributions of over \$3,000,000. See NAASF: Forest Markets & Utilization Committee (northeasternforests.org)
- ♦ COVID Relief's Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers Program set a precedent by recognizing needs for forestry, not just annual crops. For the future, a disaster affecting timber haulers and harvesters will reference this for assistance. There were 13 applicants from CT. Overall, response was robust. Nick Zito took the lead and TIMPRO got word out.
- ♦ Joan Nichols reported that the American Loggers Council is interested in a forest products industry more in line with traditional ag with reference to agriculture funding programs.
- ♦ The GC3 Forest subgroup main consensus recommendation of No Net Loss of Forest policy development has brought together a working group organized by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association as Policy on Resilient Forests for Connecticut's Future (PRFCT Future)
- ♦ CFPD continues to hold focus groups and is looking at New Jersey and Maryland statutes.
- ♦ Joan Nichols has been reappointed to the FPAB. The Board needs further efforts to diversify and also clarify the process for appointment.
- ♦ CT should provide additional opportunities for out of state foresters to become certified in CT. The agency would also like greater flexibility when someone's certification has expired. CT also needs a clarification to wildfire response and ability to participate in multistate compacts
- ♦ Regulations and Enforcement: Nick Zito reported one action in Bethlehem regarding a composting facility. There is a need to update definitions of timber harvest classifications and identify what we regulate since towns are now adopting their own regulations. Some towns have the authority to do this.

AMANDA BUNCE COMBINES FORESTRY AND ARTS FOR YSAF OUTREACH



Technically, Amanda Bunce, whose father heads the commercial logging company D. R. Bunce in Ashford, began working in the woods as a three-year old. She would ride on her father's lap while he drove his bobcat through the woods (left). Or, you could say, she really started as a six-year-old stacking firewood after a logging job and eventually learning to operate all her father's equipment.

Below right with her dog Trixie, she is now a licensed forester working towards her PhD in Natural Resources at the University of Connecticut, she comes to her position as a research assistant at the University of Connecticut in Storrs with substantial "boots on the ground" experience.

That's all the more surprising when you consider that she got her undergraduate degree in art. "I knew I had to go to college," Bunce explained.

"I switched programs a lot and ended up with art. But I just knew I didn't want to do it as a living. I also did a lot of outdoor education. Then I decided to go back to school at UConn to get a Master's degree. I was hired on a biomechanics research project. I got my Master's but saw a lot more work to be done in forestry research and extension, so now I'm working towards a PhD."

Bunce's depth and breadth in forestry plus her art background has also involved her in a website project: "I started working with Michael Ferrucci of Interforest, LLC when he asked for help at a Yankee Society of American Foresters meeting to write a position statement about the value of forestry in a changing climate, and later develop a website foresters and loggers could turn to for that information and other resources. I was familiar with the science he wanted to include." So with her art background and experience with websites, she was a natural fit for the project. She worked closely with Andrea Urbano, a CT-DEEP Service Forester on the scientific content of the position statement. The two, with other forest scientists from UVM and Yale, worked on the initial website.



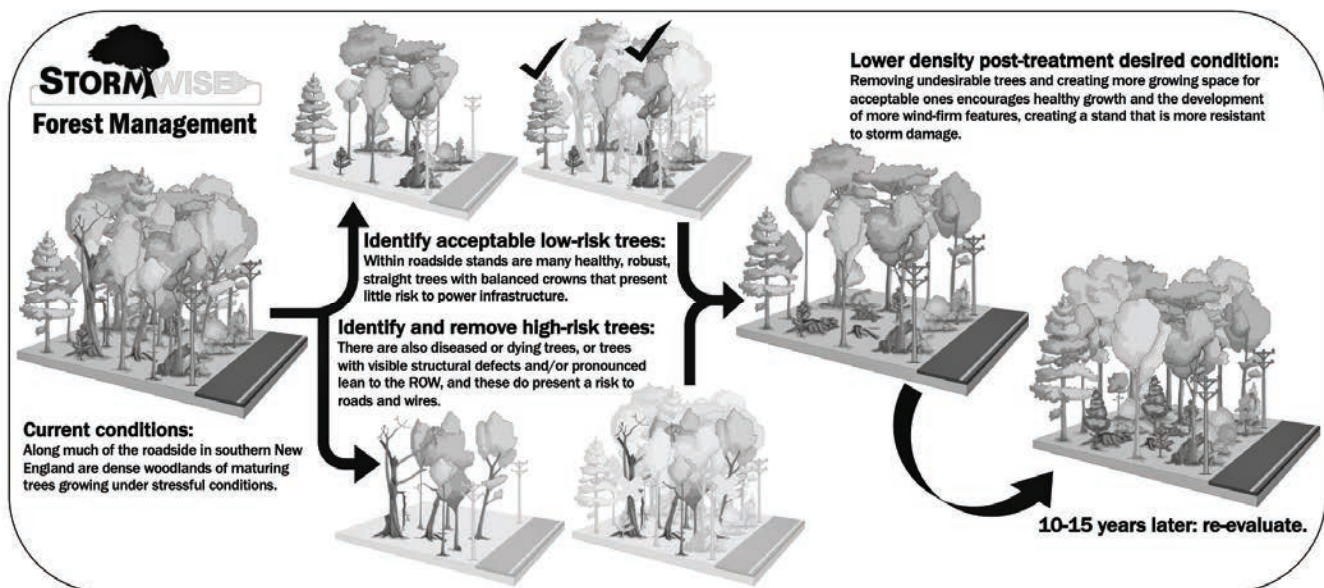
"Our basic concept is a tool kit: It's still a work in progress. We originally intended to have resources where our people can get to them if they know what they're looking for. That's one section for us professionals. Another section will be more public-facing so we can point people to these pages to help them understand something about forestry, or a specific forestry subject such as wildlife habitat or carbon accounting. But that still benefits us professionals which is why it's in our toolbox."

"When I work on this," she concluded, "I look at my dad as an example for who can use it. People like him know their job but lately they started encountering questions about carbon science, for example. They can ask us, use some of the resources we have, or they can use the website."

Photos and Stormwise chart courtesy of Amanda Bunce

STORMWISE

We first reported on *Stormwise* in the Fall 2014 issue of *The Cutting Edge*. Now Amanda Bunce is conducting biomechanics research for a larger *Stormwise* project, a multidisciplinary research project to help power companies and municipalities better manage trees along roads and rights-of-way. "We know a lot about the biomechanics involved. Foresters understand how trees move in the wind. With this project, we're starting to put the numbers behind it to better inform the power companies, landowners, and others that manage roadside forests," she explained. *Stormwise* exists within the Eversource Energy Center at UConn, a meeting place for the power company and scientists, where several research projects are ongoing, looking at factors such as power grid strength and resiliency. The roadside forest is one piece of the puzzle. Other projects include an Outage Prediction Model where information about the weather and the grid come together. *Stormwise* hopes this information will improve management of the roadside forest to prevent hazards and power outages..





Bits and Chokers

PROMOTING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR WOOD PRODUCTS

Todd Waldron has been a forester for 27 years. He spent ten of those years in fiber supply at International Paper buying pulpwood in Pennsylvania and another 14 years as a consulting forester in northern New England. So his latest position with the Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) is both a personal pivot as well as a sign of how the forestry profession has changed: foresters have taken on new roles harvesting trees with an eye to conserving wood supplies for construction and manufacture as well as wildlife habitat.



"Since I came to RGS a year ago, we've developed an exciting new model," Waldron explained. "We're trying to connect the dots between forestry and wildlife through sustainable forestry." That focus led him to take a class on circular forestry – the closed loop between forest harvest, utilization of the resulting wood products, and recycling those wood products when they no longer serve the original purpose. He added, "Here's what I think is the cool-



est thing about forestry in the circular economy. When people talk about carbon and climate, how many solutions and tools are there besides trees and wood that simultaneously contribute to carbon sequestration? They provide all the benefits. That's what I really try to focus on: where do we fit in the circular economy. How do we close the loop on waste and environmental outputs in our current system, everything from fashion to plastic to electronics? Even with all our efforts now, we only recycle about 30% of what's possible."

"Moreover, there are business opportunities turning waste into resources. It's not just recycling. Look at the whole picture including repackaging and reengineering in a way that reduces waste but continues to allow growth. We need to decouple our work from the carbon footprint."

He admits it's a bigger challenge in Connecticut which lacks a long history of paper mills and big industries compared to Maine or upstate New York. But, still, on a smaller scale we can have bioactivities that benefit communities. Small entrepreneurial enterprises can contribute anywhere in the Northeast. "I'd love to see support for the forest companies already there," Waldron said.

As for the Ruffed Grouse Society, "Forests can provide habitat, clean water, recreation, and wood products," Waldron said. "We're trying to make sure that we keep working forests central to climate discussions. Ruffed grouse is a bell weather animal. It needs forest diversity. If they're doing well, the forests are doing well."

WHO'S TO BLAME?

A logging company in Ohio has been caught up in a criminal charge of Grand Theft for cutting down a majestic black walnut on public land.

It started when Todd Jones and his sister Laurel Hoffman needed money. They insist it was a mistake when they hired a logging company to take down a valuable black walnut tree on neighboring Cleveland, Ohio parkland. Now charged with Grand Theft, Jones, 56, told authorities, "It's not the crime of the century."

That's not how Jennifer Grieser sees it. The director of natural resources at Cleveland Metroparks, she oversees thousands of acres of parks, nature preserves and trails in northeastern Ohio. She was walking through a reservation, checking on saplings, when she saw the freshly cut stump of a black walnut tree.

The police spoke to a nearby resident who said her husband's son had recently hired a logging service to cut down the tree and sell it for lumber. The tree, however, was not on the son's property in Strongsville, a suburb of Cleveland, as he claimed, but on property owned by Cleveland Metroparks, a public agency that oversees 24,000 acres across the region, including trails, golf courses and lake-front parks.

Jacqueline Gerling, a spokeswoman for Cleveland Metroparks, said the tree might have been more than 250 years old. It was worth at least \$28,800, according to the Cleveland Metroparks Police Department.

"Given our urban setting and the threats to healthy tree growth, it is very uncommon to find a black walnut of this size," Ms. Gerling said.

In a statement, Michael O'Malley, the Cuyahoga County prosecutor, said his office took seriously its duty to protect the regional park system. "We will not ignore people trespassing onto park property and illegally cutting down irreplaceable trees for profit," he said.

It took a logging company three days to cut down the tree and remove it from the property, according to the police report. The company's owner, who dealt directly with Ms. Hoffman, told the police he paid \$2,000 for the tree, according to the police report.

While the company has not been charged for the theft, there may be charges for damage to the park. At least one of the recently planted saplings in the restoration area was destroyed when the tree was cut down. The cages that had been protecting the saplings, which were part of a restoration project, had been smashed, the report said.

While loggers don't expect to confirm information about property, clearly the old adage, "Trust but verify" could apply here.

Twigs and a branches are all that's left of a 250 year-old black walnut tree.

Photo courtesy of Cleveland Metroparks



THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

"HANK THE TANK"

Black bear populations in Connecticut are growing, especially in the northwest. Suburban areas offer especially rich food sources such as unsecured garbage. So we'd better consider what we can learn from "Hank the Tank."

Hank, a 500-lb black bear, is so well-fed, he did not bother to hibernate this winter. Going beyond garbage, he's caused extensive damage in over 40 break-ins in the gated community of South Tahoe Lake, California. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife Services proposed capturing and euthanizing him but protests exploded. The protests did not even die down when the plan was switched to relocation in a wildlife sanctuary.

The bear is beloved by many longtime local residents who believe in the importance of co-existing with all wildlife. "He hasn't hurt one human. He's very sweet," Lake Tahoe resident Deanne Belardino told local station KRON4. "I love bears."



New DNA evidence shows that Hank is one of at least three supersize bears who have damaged more than 30 properties around Lake Tahoe, a natural bear habitat, in recent months. The three are responsible for more than 150 incident reports in the region straddling Northern California and Nevada, including a recent break-in at a residence in the Tahoe Keys neighborhood.

California will begin trapping bears in the South Lake Tahoe area to tag the animals and collect evidence for genetic analysis. The bears will be released in a "suitable habitat." The agency said no trapped animals will be euthanized as part of the project.

Connecticut recognizes that bears are highly adaptable to the wildland/suburban interface. The state could receive over \$1 million from the proposed Recovering America's Wildlife Act to help manage and

conserve wildlife. While we do not yet have any supersize bears, the continued push of development into black bear range will bring many of us some new and unexpected neighbors.

Black Bear Sightings in 2020

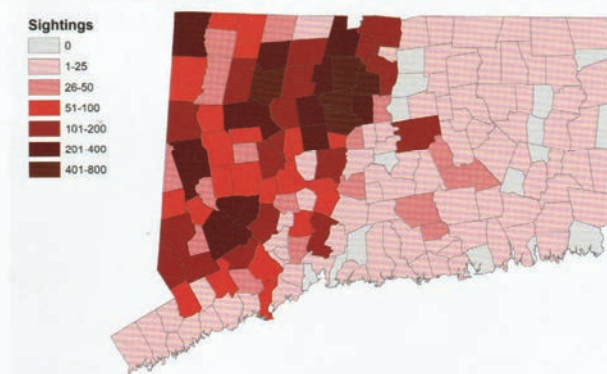


Photo above courtesy of The New York Times

Map of Black Bear Sightings courtesy of Connecticut Wildlife

THERE ARE STILL SOME AWESOME WOODEN TOY TRUCKS LEFT!
YOUR PURCHASE WILL GO TO OUR 2022 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, 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.