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The Cutting Edge



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Cover Art: Deborah Roach

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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

Spring saw TIMPRO back in business after almost two years of pandemic restrictions. We have also experienced some big changes: Brennan Sheahan, our hardworking and longstanding president, has stepped down and we welcomed new president Scott Rogers. See pages 4 and 5 for more information. Below, reports from Legislative Correspondent Joan Nichols.



On March 25th, 2022 Ag Days at the Capitol resumed after a two year hiatus due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Since the Capitol was restricted to minimal public access, the

event took place at the State Armory. This venue afforded plenty of room for social distancing while still providing an opportunity for showcasing the diversity of Connecticut agriculture. Timpro was well represented by members Kyle Breutsch and Henry Gundlach. Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz (above) visited the different displays. Kyle was especially impressed by the number of FFA students who visited the Timpro display and were interested in careers in natural resources. After learning more about the sector, one visitor thanked Kyle for what loggers and the forest products industry do. It was a great opportunity to reconnect with friends and acquaintances involved in Connecticut agriculture.

The New England Society of American Forest Spring Field Meeting took place May 13, 2022 in Rutland State Park, Rutland, Massachusetts. The morning session covered topics such as White Oak release and Pine Barrens Restoration. The afternoon session focused on ways to deter deer and moose browse and protect regeneration. One strategy is a slash wall (below). Exclosure fences were another option suggested for browse deterrence.



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.

MAY 25 ANNUAL MEETING



On Wednesday May 25, TIMPRO CT held its first Annual Meeting since the pandemic at Norbrook Farm Brewery in Colebrook, CT.

It was a pleasure to meet and greet members in person and to hear from experts from the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration who provided updates on regulations and compliance. Also on hand were Inspectors from the CT DMV Commercial Vehicle Safety Division who covered inspections and safety including hands-on walk arounds and tie-down rules

In the afternoon Christopher Laughton from Farm Credit East spoke on the busi-

ness of logging with tips on equipment financing and analyzing logging profits. CT DEEP Forestry rep Nick Zito presented on agency updates and the economic impact of the forest products industry. In keeping with the theme of truck safety, food trucks were on hand for those who had not brought lunch. The meeting ended with a farm brewery tour and tasting.



Top Left: Sgt. Stafford Browne, CT DMV Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Division

Left: Christopher Laughton, Farm Credit East

Above: Officer David Devine (center), New Entrant Program

Photos pages 2-3 courtesy of Joan Nichols

BRENNAN SHEAHAN STEPS DOWN AS TIMPRO PRESIDENT



To the members of TIMPRO:

My tenure as TIMPRO President has come to an end.

During these past 5 years as President I had the privilege of working with and meeting so many great individuals with a passion for CT's forest products industry. With the help of many board members, I was able to develop a consistent CEU training program that brought both educational opportunities and value to our membership.

During my tenure as President we saw our membership grow to record heights, we updated our website to a new and much improved version, we began to offer two educational scholarships annually and we substantially increased our annual donation to the Log-A-Load. I am very proud of these accomplishments.

I am leaving TIMPRO in good hands. The timing for new vision and enthusiasm for the leadership role of the president couldn't be better. We have just come out of some of the two most challenging years for all nonprofit organizations for maintaining membership, content, and focus. TIMPRO's new president will launch this organization forward with improved focus.

I say goodbye with reluctance but will forever be grateful for the opportunity to lead this wonderful organization for many years. I have forged numerous relationships from this opportunity and these will always remain strong.

Sincerely

Brennan Sheahan

Top: Delivering the TIMPRO Log A Load donation

Middle: Assisting students at an FFA event

Bottom: With Senator Ted Kennedy Jr At CT Ag Days

INTRODUCING SCOTT ROGERS, NEW TIMPRO PRESIDENT

My father was a forester and a logger; he ran Green Mountain Timber Corporation in the 1970s working mostly in western Connecticut and in eastern New York state. I first started in the logging business at age nine running a skidder. At 14, I cut my first 24 inch ash...nervously! Working with my father on weekends and in the summer months, I grew up not only logging but also conducting timber cruises with him, supervising active timber harvests, and doing forest landowner evaluations.

In August of 1989 I was hired at the MDC (The Metropolitan District Commission, known as the MDC is the drinking water and sewer treatment authority for the Greater Hartford area and member towns) as the logging crew forwarder operator. In September of 1991, I was transferred to the Collinsville Water Treatment Facility and gained some knowledge and experience in the water treatment business. In September of 1994 I was able to come back to the Natural Resource Department as the timber cutter and log truck driver for the logging crew and got certified in CT as a Supervising Forest Products Harvester. In 2001, I attended night school at Gateway Community College in New Haven CT and successfully obtained The CT Class 4 Water Treatment License. Two years later I obtained the CT Forest Practitioners Forester certificate. I also attended the Game of Logging in 2001, gaining a Master Logger certification in 2002. I taught chainsaw safety classes in the MDC from 2002 until 2009, and I chaired the Barkhamsted Water Supply Division Safety Committee from 2007 – 2021.

The MDC is the second largest landowner in Connecticut with 28,000 acres of watershed land and is a quasi-governmental/non-profit organization; as such it offered me some interesting opportunities in my career as a forester. First and foremost the primary focus was always protecting and improving water quality. Every timber sale, every road, every activity always took that into account; even as we (the other forester and I) managed to mark an annual average of 1.1 million board feet in volume utilizing shelterwood cuts, clear cuts, and other silvicultural prescriptions. Secondly, as a timber cutter for the company my job often involved cutting trees in spaces near water department infrastructure or, for many years, evaluating trees for hazard potential. Lastly, there was also interaction with the public and contractors: dealing with concerned public wanting to know what was going on next to a reservoir either answering their questions or directing them to the correct people in the company, leading forestry tours, assisting with the forestry section of the Envirothon of CT from 2008 thru 2017, and of course working with the logging companies contracted by the MDC.

A particularly unusual forestry job was in 2015-2019: the MDC wanted to map, using ArcGIS, all of the cultural features or historic foundations on the watershed lands that still remain after the installation of the reservoirs and to determine what protection a historic foundation needs when it is located within an active timber sale.

I retired from the MDC in 2021 after 32 years. I plan on remaining an active forester. I got my CDL Class A last fall, in order to help me work as an independent contractor, but also because of the draft horses my wife Anne and I have, and the need to move them or mechanized equipment where they are needed. We are in the process of rehabilitating her family farm, which has 55 acres of forest land.

I look forward to our continued involvement with the Log A Load program. We will continue to promote professional logger education and development opportunities, connect with and educate the communities we live and work within, and make our voices heard with regard to legislative issues that impact our businesses.



Buddy (right), 13 yrs old and 2000 lbs., is Amish trained to drive. He will mentor Sonny (left), 2.5 yrs, who has 5 more years of development.

NEWS YOU CAN USE



We recently caught up with 2019 TIMPRO scholarship winner Alyssa Hotchkiss who provided this account:

"I am currently finishing up my junior year! My favorite classes this semester were Ecological Restoration and Soil Fertility. In my free time, I helped start "Choose Planet Over Plastic," an initiative to lessen single-use plastics on campus. Over the summer, I will be collecting data for my capstone project, which focuses on the biodiversity of soil-dwelling organisms in agricultural land. My goal is to bridge the gap between natural resources and agriculture."

Left: Alyssa checking water quality parameters while holding a "Choose Planet Over Plastic" reusable silverware set.

Photo courtesy of Alyssa Hotchkiss

AN EMPTY BARREL GAVE MAPLE SYRUP THEFT AWAY

BBC reports that Canada's top court has imposed a C\$9.1m (\$7.3m; £5.5m) fine on a man behind one of the country's stickiest crimes - the theft of 3,000 tons of maple syrup.

The so-called Great Canadian Maple Syrup Heist saw the loss of nearly C\$18m worth of syrup from the country's reserves by a group of thieves.

The court ordered Richard Vallières, a "major player" in the scheme, to pay a penalty or face six years in prison.

Vallières was found guilty in 2016 of fraud, trafficking and theft.

He is currently serving an eight year prison sentence.

At trial, Vallières said he sold the syrup for C\$10m and made a personal profit of around C\$1m.

In a unanimous decision on Thursday, the Supreme Court ruled that Vallières should pay a penalty equal to the value of the stolen goods within a decade. The ruling overturns a decision by the Quebec Court of Appeal to reduce his fine to just C\$1m - equivalent to what Vallières says he pocketed.

The Quebec Maple Syrup Producers - the so-called Opec of maple syrup - holds an emergency reserve of the product to help meet global supply in years of poor harvests. The Canadian province produces almost three-quarters of the world's maple syrup.

Between 2011 and 2012, Vallières and the group of thieves targeted a central Quebec warehouse where the product is stockpiled, often replacing the syrup in the barrels with water.

The thieves went on to distribute the stolen syrup throughout Canada and the US.

The theft was discovered in 2012 during a routine survey when an inspector climbed on a stack of maple syrup barrels - which typically weigh some 270kg (595 lbs)- and one nearly tipped over. It was empty.



2018 TIMPRO Scholarship winner Erin Reilly sent this update and images. Full disclosure: I was thrilled to learn her CAES work took her to my property in NW Connecticut. HM

"I'm doing well! The management plan went well and I graduated at the top of my class last spring. I worked at the Connecticut Agricultural Research Station with Dr. Jeffrey Ward this past year collecting tree growth data from long-term research plots, assessing *Lymantria dispar* damage in the northwest of the state, and surveying beech leaf disease. I was recently accepted to a Master's program at the University of New Hampshire where I'll be studying beech bark disease with Dr. Jeff Garnas. I start this summer as a research technician and will begin academic work in the fall, so I have a lot to look forward to this coming year! I hope you're doing well."

Photos courtesy of Erin Reilly





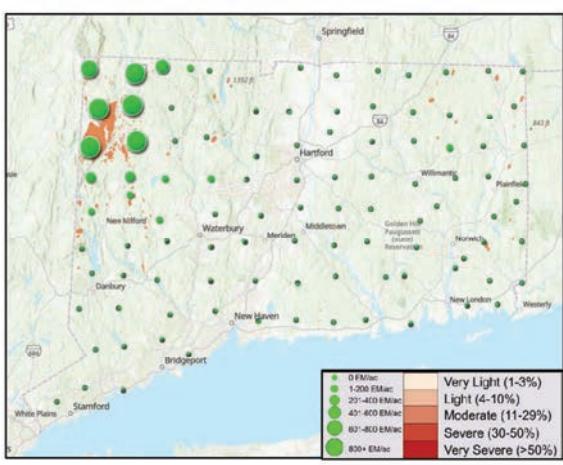
Bits and Chokers

CAES ISSUES SPONGY MOTH WARNING FOR NW CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) and Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) are cautioning northern portions of Litchfield County to anticipate a heavy presence of spongy moth (formerly named gypsy moth) caterpillars this spring along with significant defoliation of hardwood trees. Spongy moth populations rose substantially in 2021 particularly in the Sharon-Cornwall area last year, and spongy moth caterpillars have begun to emerge.

"Our 2021 state-wide gypsy moth egg mass survey, especially in northwestern Connecticut, showed large amounts of spongy moth egg masses, which leads us to believe there will be a continued hatch and extensive caterpillar activity in 2022," said Dr. Victoria Smith, CAES Deputy State Entomologist. Residents, arborists, and foresters have also reported large amounts of spongy moth egg masses. 2021 was the first year of widespread defoliation in northwest Connecticut and most healthy trees refoliated in part due to sufficient summer rains. The energy required to refoliate places significant stress on trees increasing the risk of tree mortality in 2022," said DEEP Director of Forestry Chris Martin.

Wet spring conditions should activate a naturally occurring soil borne fungus, *Entomophaga maimaiga*, which is lethal to only spongy moth caterpillars and normally keeps their populations in check. Connecticut has experienced similar cyclical outbreaks, most recently in eastern Connecticut that resulted in widespread tree mortality after several dry springs and corresponding consecutive years of defoliation. Wet spring weather eventually returned favoring growth and effectiveness of the *Entomophaga maimaiga* fungus and ending the infestation.

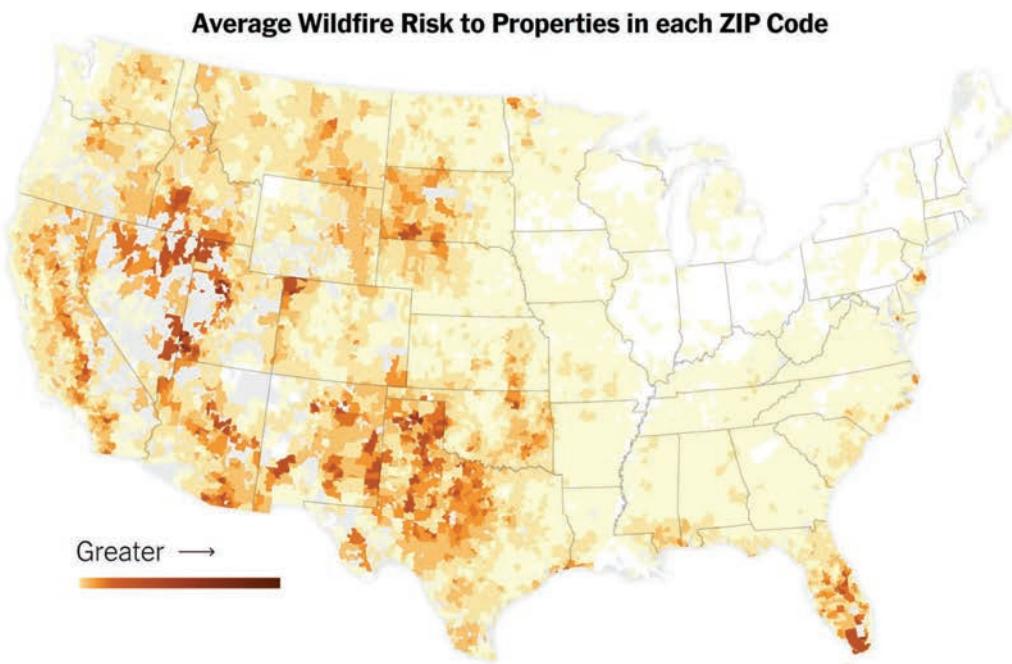


Annual forest pest and disease aerial surveys conducted by CAES documented that spongy moth caterpillars defoliated 156,000 acres in 2020 (mostly in the eastern half of CT) and 45,548 acres in (mostly in Litchfield County) in 2021.

"While most trees will refoliate initially, repeated attacks from spongy moths can weaken a tree's natural ability to ward off secondary stressors such as drought or other insects and disease. Oaks are the most preferred tree species," continued Martin. "Under heavy infestation spongy moths will eat just about everything with green leaves and even needles. Some people may remember that nearly 1.5 million acres were defoliated by the spongy moth in 1981, and, while we lost trees, our forests recovered."

Spongy moth infestations are difficult to control over wide areas and while the State has no plans for widespread aerial spraying, individuals interested in pursuing treatments should hire a certified arborist or licensed pesticide applicator to protect their trees in a safe and effective use of the *Entomophaga maimaiga* fungus for ending the infestation.

ARE OUR FORESTS STILL “FIREPROOF”?



Source: First Street Foundation, U.S. Census Nadja Popovich/The New York Times

Anecdotally, concerns are growing that New England may see more wildfires as a result of the warming climate and droughts. While the region is historically wet – and many New Englanders saw the rainiest July on record last summer – climate change is causing rain to drop heavier within shorter periods of time, potentially leaving longer dry spells amid rising temperatures. Classic New England winters are also on the decline due to climate change, with parts of the region seeing far less snow.

In 2020, Maine saw a record-breaking year for wildfires. This May, a brush fire in western Massachusetts became the largest wildland fire the state has seen in more than two decades.

In a 2019 doctoral dissertation at the University of Massachusetts Amherst examining wildfire risk in the Northeast, author Daniel Miller wrote, "Interestingly, these increases in regional fire risk are present regardless of increases in precipitation, indicating that future fire risk in the (Northeastern United States) is driven largely by changes in temperature as opposed to precipitation."

The Northeast certainly appears to be seeing more drought but the link to climate change is not clear.

Additionally, more and more people are building in the wildland/urban interface. "When houses are built close to forests or other types of natural vegetation, they pose two problems related to wildfires," says a 2018 study on the rapid growth of the U.S. wildland-urban interface. "First, there will be more wildfires due to human ignitions. Second, wildfires that occur will pose a greater risk to lives and homes, they will be hard to fight, and letting natural fires burn becomes impossible."

Residents and visitors across New England have a responsibility to prevent wildfires, experts say, because they're the ones causing them the majority of the time. To quote Smokey the Bear, "Only you can prevent forest fires."

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

A FOREST OF SUPEROAKS TAKES ROOT

Foresters are used to planning in terms of decades. But centuries?

For Nick Baimbridge, the head forester of the Blenheim Estate in England, not even a millennium is a stretch of the imagination. The oak he's leaning against, below, has stood for more than a thousand years. "They've lived for so long; just think what they've seen," he says.

This medieval forest contains the greatest collection of ancient oak trees anywhere in Europe.

The oldest oak, believed to be 1,046 years old, represents a precious genetic lineage set to live again through its acorns. They will spawn a new generation as part of an experiment to establish a "super forest." Up to 270,000 trees will be set out in nine new woodlands covering 1sq km (0.6 miles) in an inaugural scheme paying landowners to create forests with public access.

It helps that 2020 was a "mast year," when the oaks produced a bumper crop of acorns for foresters to take to a tree nursery on the estate. "We put them in compost and just wait for them to do their thing," says Baimbridge. Once planted, they will be tended for 25 years.

Although it will take several years for the saplings to be ready for planting out, experts think it is worth the wait to harness the pedigree of the Blenheim oaks.

These native oak trees, which can support hundreds of different species of insects, birds and fungi, will be needed in the race to reforest the UK. Britain remains one of the least wooded parts of Europe, and while new trees are being planted, ancient woodland continues to be lost. The government needs to triple tree planting efforts to meet its goal of creating 30,000 hectares of new woodland every year in the UK by 2025.

But it's not enough to randomly plant millions of trees; forests must be built to last, with a combination of species that will provide habitat for wildlife as well as absorbing carbon emissions. And natural woodlands that contain a mixture of native species are more resilient and better for wildlife than vast plantations made up of one type of tree. Oaks, hornbeams, limes, sycamore and other saplings are already in the ground, with the first phase of planting expected to be finished this month.

Along with Baimbridge, forester Nathan Fall is always planning for the next generation.

"If we can say, look - there is a model that works both financially and from an asset value perspective," he said, "then this hopefully will encourage others to follow at scale."



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 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.**