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PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

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The Cutting Edge →



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Cover Photo: Courtesy Sam Burr

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

TIMPRO was founded to be a voice for all of us in the forest products industry. But from the very beginning, we have actively sought to help the wider community. This issue highlights just a few ways TIMPRO and its members “pay it forward.” You’ll read about our recent scholarship winners, about a member who volunteers with the local FFA, about another member who mucks out stables for High Hopes, and about our ongoing support through Log A Load for the Children’s Miracle Network.

TIMPRO ON INSTAGRAM

TIMPRO can now boast its very own Instagram account thanks to Sam Burr, daughter of Board member Stanley Burr Jr. Please follow us at [ct_timber_pro](#) and spread the word!

Sam, who is building a career in photojournalism, has a BA in Communications/Photography from Fitchburg State University and an MA in Liberal Arts/Humanities from Wesleyan University. An associate director at Wesleyan University, she lives with her husband and 16-year-old step daughter in Higganum, CT. Sam has been documenting most of her father’s ongoing activities over the years. She loves to educate folks on the ecological benefits of logging and forest management.

Enjoy her Log A Load feature and photographs pp 6-7.

TRUCK USE FEE

The new Truck Use Fee that was signed into law in 2021 by Governor Lamont went into effect January 1, 2023 on trucks traveling on all highways in Connecticut.

The first Highway Use Fee return is due on or before February 28, 2023. Any person operating an eligible motor vehicle on any Connecticut highway must pay the fee.

An eligible motor vehicle that has a gross weight of 26,000 pounds or more and carries a classification between Class 8 and Class 13, inclusive, under the Federal Highway Administration vehicle classification system must register for a Highway Use Fee Permit.

Straight trucks are not considered an eligible motor vehicle unless they are in combination with a trailer.

The Connecticut Department of Revenue Services has an extensive webpage of information for carriers, including a schematic and description of eligible motor vehicles along with information on how to register and file a fee.

Visit <https://portal.ct.gov/DRS/Businesses/Highway-Use-Fee/>

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.

TIMPRO HEARTSAVER™ CPR



TIMPRO hosted two Heartsaver™ First Aid and CPR events, December 2 in Burlington, CT and December 9 in Vernon, CT.

President Scott Rogers reported: "Everybody gave us good feedback. They really appreciated it and especially appreciated Bill Katt (left) of Katt Training and Consulting LLC. He included some humor in training and got people through the process smoothly." Participants were surprised to learn how procedures have changed over the years. The standard is now 15 compressions (still to the beat of The BeeGees' "Staying Alive") followed with 2 breaths. But CPR no longer requires checking for the pulse because too many people had trouble accurately finding it. About the Automated External Defibrillator (AED)s, Katt said those in standard kits are like a Chrysler. The ambulance has something like a BMW level machine, but hospitals have something like the Space Shuttle in terms of sophistication.

Photo courtesy Scott Rogers

TIMPRO CEUs SURVEY

TIMPRO recently offered two successful Heartsaver™ First Aid with CPR and AED events. Offering the CEU on two different days, each day at a different site, made for more flexible opportunities for those who need to keep up their qualifications.

Looking ahead to more CEU programs, TIMPRO President Scott Rogers distributed a survey at the recent Annual Meeting to solicit ideas for future events:

95% of the respondents think the fees are appropriate and that any day of the week works because "We are always working!"

About 75% said they would do webinars but as a last choice. They prefer in-person classes first and then recorded CEUs.

They would like to see the following topics covered –

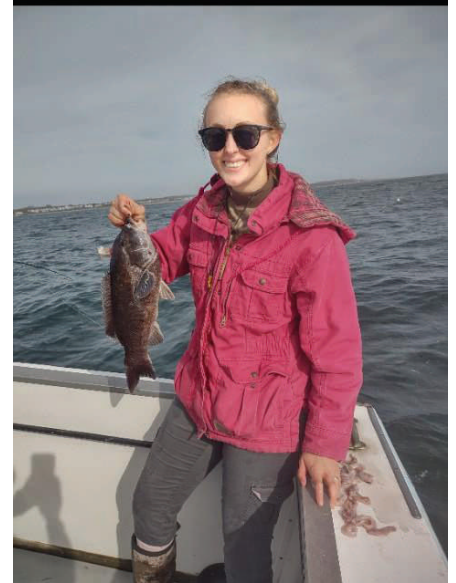
Preharvest planning
Mechanical harvesting
Insurance, Workman's
comp, etc
Basic Surveying
Timber Inventory
CPR

Safety
Felling techniques
Wetlands permitting
Welding
Saw repair
Timber Bridge Building

TIMPRO awards two \$500 scholarships annually to high school students planning careers in environmental fields. Here are updates from our 2022 awardees. Fishing was a popular activity!

Rhiannon Martin

My semester went very well! I finished with a 3.6 GPA and I'm super proud of myself for getting through. I've met a lot of new people and have started making some connections with people. I have also had job offers in the field of land surveying and water testing at the Eight Mile River in Salem. The opportunities that have been offered are just incredibly motivating. I'm excited to start up in a few weeks for semester 2. If I have learned anything so far, it's that Three Rivers community college is such a great fit for me! I am continuing my work at the Quinebaug Valley Trout Hatchery while I'm not in class. I have been busy but it's all certainly paying off!



Right: Fishing for Blackfish out of Long Island

Colden Williamson



Dendrology was a very cool class, I learned 130 trees from all over the country and I was able to study them while being outside. I had a paper for silvics to write on Big Tooth Aspen, which was very interesting to research and write about because I learned a lot about one species. It showed me how important each species is to the ecosystem. I'm outside constantly. During the semester I fished, hiked, hunted, rock climbed and just all around enjoyed the Adirondacks.

Left: A small mouth bass

SUPPORTING FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

He has delivered piglets, chaperoned field trips, and supervised sugaring operations.

And that's only a few of the ways Henry Gundlach (Below, center) has volunteered at Northwestern Regional High School in Winsted. Since 1997, he has served on the Advisory Board for the Agricultural Education program at Northwestern Regional #7.

In 2015, when Joan Nichols nominated him for a the New England Loggers Association Award (NELA), Mia J. Haaland, Program Director for the Agricultural FFA program at Northwestern Regional #7, attested to his many contributions. He has attended FFA and Agricultural Education activities to show his support for the students and staff. In addition to advising, he has chaperoned activities and trips, delivered a calf as well as the aforementioned piglets, helped students locate new sugar bushes, solicited funds for FFA activities, donated materials and equipment, met with administrators and state officials, hauled away manure, repaired buses, and cooked at events. In 2016, he drove FFA members on a tour of agriculture education facilities traveling through four states and ending in Indianapolis (Henry Gundlach center front in Indianapolis).

But most important of all, he has served as a link between educational programs and real world agriculture.

No surprise that NELA awarded its 2015 Leadership in the Industry Award to Henry Gundlach at NELA's Annual Loggers' Banquet on the opening night of the annual Loggers' Expo, May 5 at the Doubletree by Hilton in South Burlington, Vermont.



Photo courtesy of Mia J. Haaland, Northwest Regional #7

A LOG-A-LOAD RUN ADDS UP

Contributed by Sam Burr



Log A Load for Kids began in the 1980's as a fundraising campaign for loggers across the country to donate the value of a load of logs to their local Children's Miracle Network hospital. While campaigns have grown to include raffles, fishing events, golf tournaments and more, Stanley Burr Jr of Higganum, a TIMPRO board member, prefers to stick to tradition.

But he felt that not many Connecticut loggers could donate a whole load of logs by themselves. Instead, he reached out to local forestry industry partners and asked each to donate a few logs that would add up to one large donation. He would drive his log truck around to each log yard or landing and collect from each participant. Then he would sell the full load to a sawmill and donate the amount to Log A Load for Kids through TIMPRO.

After he checked his tires and fueled up his Kenworth on a brisk November morning, I climbed in the truck with him, a Log-A-Load banner and camera in hand. Our first stop brought us across town to pick up logs from The Tree Company where co-owner Bill Harwood donated several red oak logs. The Tree Company provides a variety of tree work services including tree removal, planting and arborist-led plant healthcare in central Connecticut.

Nearby, we also loaded three black oak logs from Wiese Enterprises. Jack and Lisa Wiese deliver log length and cut and split firewood in central Connecticut.

Our third donor brought us to Durham. Dave Trykowski from Perma Treat eagerly agreed to donate as many logs as we needed for a full load. Perma Treat is an industry-leading sawmill, specializing in treating and manufacturing railroad ties. When we departed Perma Treat, the truck was filling up and we slowly made our way to Peter Marlowe Forest Products in Guildford. This sawmill sits atop an open hill exposed to high winds and cold temperatures. That day, the wind was surreal: frigid and bone-chilling. Marlowe stopped by to see how our log load was adding up and commented, "If everyone does a little bit, it really adds up. Next time I'd be happy to buy the logs!"

Our last stop of the day was Stanley's own logging job in Madison which he had been cutting for Peter. Together, they donated five behemoth red oak logs. The butt end of one log measured a whopping 40 inches and wound up being the largest log we delivered, measuring over 500 board-feet of lumber. The truck was nearly full so we parked the truck at Stanley's log yard, planning to complete the mission the following morning.

Bright and early on November 18th, Stanley painted his name with "TIMPRO Log A Load" on the end of one of the large logs before the



trek to Scotland. Along the way we gathered our last four oak logs from Josh Miller, a private forester/logger who had recently finished a job in East Haddam.

The truck was now full so we carefully snaked our way across the state until we arrived at Scotland Hardwoods. There, Stanley unloaded, organizing each log by species. Brian, the log scaler, scanned and tagged each log and showed Stanley the final ticket: a total of 4,250 board feet! Scotland Hardwoods' services and products are vast, including lumber, bark mulch, pallets and wood chips which are found across the state of Connecticut and beyond.

The truck felt as light as air on our way home after unloading the full weight of logs. The final ticket from Scotland Hardwoods was valued over \$3,700. Combined with other 2022 donations, TIMPRO will be sending this as part of its donation to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford.

This is only one part of TIMPRO's Log A Load effort. So stay tuned for the final donation total!

HELPING AT HIGH HOPES

As much as Joan Nichols loves cruising the woods, she's equally enthusiastic about mucking out stalls for the horses at High Hopes Therapeutic Riding in Old Lyme.

Dedicated to benefitting the minds, bodies, and spirits of people with disabilities, High Hopes offers free year-round riding instruction and even a summer camp.

Joan got involved with High Hopes years ago when a family member with a disability was referred there to help develop her abilities. Joan watched as a youngster of 3 ½ years steadily gained physical skills as well as self-confidence. In fact the experience inspired the girl to join an FFA program in animal science and to volunteer at High Hopes working directly with horses. By that time she was strong enough to do the hands-on work of tacking and grooming.

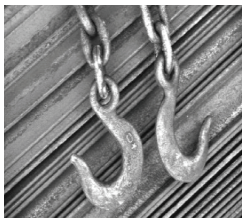
"She rode every Monday all year long for 18 years and only missed it when she was sick or weather conditions were really terrible," Joan recalled. "So I decided to volunteer too.

I decided to do barn work. I didn't want to handle horses directly. I have been doing barn work for 5 years now. Every Monday from 5 until the barn closes I do the mucking out, scrub feed buckets, clean water buckets, etc. I 'Put the barn to bed' as we say. "

That is no small task considering that there are 26 stalls and 23-28 horses depending on the need. So there could be up to 26 stalls to muck!

It's taxing work but Joan insists: "I meet a lot of wonderful people. I've worked with troubled youth bused in to do work. High Hopes also offers a veterans program. I've worked with a woman who's been deployed in Iraq, and Afghanistan - all kinds of people. it's really rewarding."





Bits and Chokers

ENVIROTHON: TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION



Last Fall, TIMPRO Board Member Joan Nichols participated in the October Envirothon workshop in Durham, CT along with Frank Cervo from CT DEEP Forestry and Eric Dunnack from USDA NRCS. Envirothon is a nationwide high school environmental education competition. The program challenges students to develop critical thinking skills to create inventive solutions to the complex local and global environmental and natural resource issues facing our world today. With the Envirothon, students are empowered to educate others, take action in their local communities, pursue higher academic study in environmental disciplines, and to work toward careers in the environment, natural resources and conservation. Joan invites other TIMPRO members to volunteer!

2022 CONNECTICUT OAK MAST SURVEY RESULTS

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has reported the results of its Connecticut Oak Mast Surveillance Program. The program monitors mature trees (300 red oak group, 275 white oak group) in the 12 Deer and Turkey Management Zones across Connecticut and annually assesses acorn crop abundance during a 2-week period in August. The 2022 Oak Mast Surveillance Program recently predicted widespread acorn crop failure for the Fall 2022 season following an above average crop in 2021.

"Oaks are a foundational component of many forest ecosystems in southern New England and their health is directly correlated with the health of the forest," said Joseph Barsky, lead forest researcher at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. "Acorns are a primary fall food source for over 80 wildlife species in our area, including white-tailed deer." Mr. Barsky warned Connecticut motorists to be wary: "Without a consistent source of acorns, deer will wander in search of alternative food sources resulting in increased potential for collisions with vehicles."

He noted several challenges to the perpetuation of oak seedlings in southern New England including:

1. Regeneration failure due to increased browse pressure from high white-tailed deer densities
2. Competition with interfering vegetation for available sunlight
3. Past widespread outbreaks of *Lymantria dispar* (spongy moth, formerly "gypsy" moth) causing acorn crop failure and oak mortality throughout the region

Weather activity, such as the recent drought and past ice storms, have also negatively impacted tree vigor and health.

THE WOOD-WIDE WEB

Do trees really “talk” to each other? The concept of a “Wood-Wide Web” has prompted scientists and environmentalists to ask that question and to consider how, if it is true, silvicultural practices might be affected.

At first that idea might seem like something straight out of Tolkien’s “The Lord of the Rings” where tree-like creatures called Ents can walk and talk. The new theory is based on studies of the mycorrhizal fungal networks that actively transfer nutrients among trees.

But does that mean trees are “talking” to one another and sharing information through that network? Scientists have long debated the role of fungal networks but research into their function is arduous.

Suzanne Simard, a forest ecologist and a Professor in the University of British Columbia’s Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences, used rare carbon isotopes to document movement of nutrients through fungal networks among trees in a stand. She claimed she even found interspecies sharing of nutrients, i.e. adult firs not only “shared” nutrients with baby firs but even with other species.

In her 2021 book, “Finding the Mother Tree,” she stated: “trees are not simply the source of timber or pulp, but are a complex, interdependent circle of life ...forests are social, cooperative creatures connected through underground networks by which trees communicate their vitality and vulnerabilities with communal lives not that different from our own.”

Simard has promoted this idea on TED talks and other presentations. And popular culture was so taken by this idea of a “mother” or “hub” tree that she was even referenced in an episode of Apple+ TV’s “Ted Lasso.”

Her theory has given rise to the concept of a “Wood-wide web” – an extensive communication network that not only shares nutrients but also information about the environment. For example, can trees warn each other through the network of pests or diseases?

But other scientists now question whether this sharing is intentional or basically a function of mycorrhizal networks in and of themselves. The New York Times examined this issue in its November 8, 2022 Science section and found many dissenters from Simard’s theory. Among other points raised, senior scientists criticized Simard’s methods for demonstrating the movement of isotopes and have called for replication of her findings by other scientists.

More fundamentally, even if the networks are moving nutrients, are they doing it for their own needs or for those of the trees?

These questions won’t be answered soon or easily. But they have a potential to change silvicultural practice. For example, we might manage tree stands to preserve essential underground connections. That, in turn, would impact what trees we marked and where.

One thing is certain: there won’t be easy answers.



Photo courtesy of Hallie Metzger

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

A FOREST ON MARS ?!



Ecologist Paul Smith of the University of Bristol isn't just thinking outside the box. He's thinking outside the planet! He envisions nature preserves on Mars, shielded from the harsh Martian environment by clear domes or layers of Martian crust. It's a feat fictional astronaut Mark Watney, played by Matt Damon in "The Martian," accomplishes by growing potatoes.

Smith suggests about 20 hectares of forest park contained under pressurized domes or sheltered in lava tubes lit by mirrors and fiber optics. He also proposes throwing in as many species as possible and letting evolution select what works

best. The result might include some combinations that would never happen naturally on Earth.

"Mars' forests would not resemble or function exactly like Earth's forests but could still deliver wonder," Smith wrote in his proposal. The process will probably start with microbes such as Cyanobacteria to fix nutrients in the regolith in a form plants could use, produce oxygen, and improve the soil. Other bacteria could even break down the deadly perchlorates.

According to Smith, the upper layers of the forest could include a lot of hardy high-altitude and high-latitude conifers like juniper, along with pine and birch. Beneath that canopy, shrubs like heath might thrive along with herbs like cicely.

One surprising inclusion is kudzu, a southern Asia native and all-consuming invasive in the southeastern United States. "It's a survivor. It's a great survivor," says Smith. "It's also a very useful plant." It fixes nitrogen in the soil and exhales oxygen as ozone. If kudzu breathes enough ozone into the contained atmosphere of a domed preserve, that could help protect the forest against incoming radiation.

Fungi and insects will be important, but one thing you won't find is wildlife, writes Smith. Under a protective plexiglass dome on Mars, wildlife would be trapped in a park too small for them to range as they would in the wild. And, of course, there's the ever-present risk of the dome losing pressure, and Smith says it would be unethical to trap larger animals in that situation.

But even without wildlife, a forest would provide food, building material, and raw ingredients for medicines. It would turn carbon dioxide into oxygen. And it would provide mental health benefits for humans stationed far from home on an alien world.

Admittedly, as astrobiologist Jim Kasting of Pennsylvania State University, notes, "It would...cost an arm and a leg to assemble this thing on Mars. I think the psychological benefit you get out of having all these trees and Earth-like biome on Mars does not justify the cost."

In any case, the first people on Mars will inevitably bring organisms with them: their microbiomes, if nothing else, but probably also at least a few plants for science experiments. And that, says Smith, is important.

"We will not travel alone because we did not evolve in isolation," writes Smith.

THERE ARE STILL SOME AWESOME WOODEN TOY TRUCKS LEFT!
YOUR PURCHASE WILL GO TO OUR 2023 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.