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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.

TIMPRO CT NEWS

BOARD NEWS

TIMPRO welcomes incoming president Kyle Bruetsch. Kyle has been a member of the Board since 2017 and brings a wide range of experience in forestry and procurement both in and beyond Connecticut.

A graduate of Unity College in Maine with a major in wildlife conservation, he did a summer internship for the Metropolitan District Water Commission where he met several TIMPRO members. He then worked as procurement forester for J&J where he met Justin and Henry Gundlach. Next he spent 2 years with the TVA in Tennessee before returning to Connecticut. He is now working for TIMPRO member Bob Carrington.

Kyle points out, "I'm one of a handful of under 50-year-olds. I want to make a career of this. I want to show people in Hartford that we don't have to be a dying industry. I've got a lot of ideas. I can be a voice for change." When not working, he's out hiking with his hound Dixie or visiting friends in Maine and Tennessee. He notes simply, "I'm happy in the woods."

TIMPRO ANNUAL MEETING

Secretary Jerry Bellows reported about the April 21 meeting at Deer Lake Reservation in Killingworth that we had about 40 people attending. Three new people joined as professionals and there were two new student memberships to vote on. Speakers from the American Chestnut Foundation detailed the many advances that have been made towards restoring this tree. The Round Table discussion went well. The presenters were phenomenal."

CORRECTION:

Apologies to Peter Marlowe for omitting his name in the list of Log-A-Load Donors. His sawmill, Peter Marlowe Forest Products in Guilford, was a generous donor. Many thanks!

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 AT NELA



TIMPRO Board members Bob Carrington, Henry Gundlach, and Joan Nichols were among the eight volunteer teachers participating in an unusual event at the NELA Logging Expo May 19-20 in Bangor, Maine. According to NELA Expo Administrator Kristin Amendola, "During the Loggers' Expo, we had a group of over 90 Third Graders from Old Town Elementary join us for our Shelterwood Project." Working with Maine Tree, this project helps connect children "to the forest products industry professionals and

... equipment that work hard to move the wood from stump to consumer." The volunteers introduced children to the machines and explained what each one does. This was followed by lunch and a Q&A with the volunteers. Gundlach reports that the children asked really good questions and enjoyed the whole experience thoroughly - as did the volunteers. Will some of these children become loggers some day?

Photo courtesy of NELA and Maine Tree

2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER UPDATES

Colden Williamson summed up his first year at Paul Smith's College. It went well, he reported, and he had only a few weeks left due to an extended winter break. "Now I have a six-week forestry session that started June 1," he emailed. "There are three courses that forestry majors are supposed to take in the summer to prepare for the upcoming fall semester. The classes are split up into two-week programs that run from 8 am to 5 pm Mon-Fri. After that, I will be staying in New York where I got a summer position with the Adirondack Watershed Institute. I will be decontaminating boats that enter certain waterways to try and prevent invasive species. That will begin when my classes end and will run until I get back to school for the fall."

And from Rhiannon Martin: "The rest of my freshman year at Three Rivers Community College went very well. I am starting a new job this summer working for the Eight Mile River Wild and Scenic Watershed and Conservation group doing water quality monitoring. I am very excited to be taking part in some new experiences. Additionally, I am taking a summer class to get more credits out of the way for school. When I am not busy, I am planning on hiking, gardening, fishing, and spending as much time outdoors as I can. In my sophomore year, I am looking forward to completing more credits and taking a challenging but rewarding class load!"

AMERICAN LOGGING COUNCIL DC FLY-IN



The American Loggers Council recently reported on the first DC Congressional Fly-In since four years ago. Seventy-five timber industry representatives from twenty-one states held nearly one-hundred Congressional Meetings.

Along with these meetings, a Congressional Reception was held at the iconic Willard Hotel, the location of the ALC office. Five Congressmen: LaMalfa (CA), Westerman (AR), Collins (GA), Bergman (MI), Golden (ME)) and two Senators (Baldwin (WI) and Hyde-Smith (MS)) attended. Congressmen Golden and Westerman were presented with the inaugural ALC Congressional

Leadership Award for the House of Representatives, and Senators Collins and Baldwin were the recipients for the Senate. Timber is not a partisan issue, and the American Loggers Council has received strong bipartisan support on its federal legislative agenda.

Additional Congressional staff from other offices attended the reception along with representatives of the USFS, John Deere, and the Biomass Power Association. The Reception was sponsored by ALC Gold and Platinum Members (Tigercat, International Truck, John Deere, CAT, Southern Loggers Cooperative, Fuel & Resources, Morbark, Bitco Insurance Companies, Bandit, and Ponsse) with specific portions also sponsored by International Truck, the International Union of Operating Engineers, the Louisiana Loggers Association, the Louisiana Logging Council, Southern Loggers Cooperative, Walsh Timber, the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, the Associated California Loggers, and the Professional Logging Contractors of Maine.

Three TIMPRO members represented Connecticut at the event: Henry Gundlach, Joan Nichols, and Joseph Cranouski. Cranouski reported, "Scott Rogers recommended it. It was important and we definitely made an impact." It was his first trip; Henry Gundlach and Joan Nichols have both attended in previous years.

Cranouski was impressed with the eager young people they met on various staffs. "I hope we helped them understand what private businesses are facing," he said. "Several of Senator Richard Blumenthal's aides seemed to enjoy the conversation and promised to look into biomass issues we raised. I like the fact that Henry and Joan go back multiple years so they know the aides. We had Zoom meetings in advance. It helped that ALC had a booklet laying out points we wanted to make, especially about biomass. One EPA aide felt that biomass is a renewable resource and noted that European countries use it. We also raised the issue of taxes."

Cranouski has been involved in logging his whole life: "My brother Ronnie and I started stacking firewood and bundling kindling when we were 8 and 5. My mother let us sell the kindling. It was a great opportunity and we made good money for kids. Ronnie is now in the industry as well."

His father started a logging company in 1980, the year Joe was born. "We're in the furthest part of Hartford County. We have also since expanded the business into land clearing," he said. "I didn't study it formally – I drew on a couple of generations of experience – trial and error. I did get my Supervising Forest Products Harvester license from the state of Connecticut. Working with a lot of great foresters and contractors has been huge."

In his spare time, Cranouski likes to go grouse hunting in Maine with his 8 and 12 year-old boys. He's giving them a start in the industry by letting them stack firewood just the way he did at their age.



As for the contacts he made at the Fly-in, he plans to reach out to all of them. It's his duty, he feels: "Anyone who goes and voices what they want makes a difference."

Opposite page: Joe Cranouski, Joan Nichols, and Henry Gundlach prepare to meet with Congressional Aides.

This page right: The ALC delegates CT, RI, NY, VT, ME, NY, and PA in front of the Capitol.

Photos courtesy of Joan Nichols and ALC.

In our Spring 2023 issue, we published Chris Martin's observation about the ID markings he observed on lumber for sale in Home Depot. David Trykowski of Perma Treat responded:

"Yes, there are quite a few mills in Germany that import to the US, obviously by ship and landing up and down the east coast such as Port of Providence and down at Gateway Terminal for example. Each ship holds roughly 5,000 packs unloaded at the port and reloaded either on a trailer for direct shipment to a customer or by rail to a holding yard (rail lingo called a Trans-load facility) for future orders. I see Home Depot Lumber going by our mill in Durham by rail, heading to Hartford. They must have a distribution facility up there."

More observations are welcome. Send them to Jerry Bellows at info@timproct.org

NEWS YOU CAN USE



ELISABETH WARD JOINS CAES

Don't be fooled by the last names:

Elisabeth B. Ward, newly appointed Forest Ecologist at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), is no relation to recently retired Jeffrey S. Ward, Chief Scientist Emeritus, Department of Environmental Science and Forestry. But she will be supporting many of his projects.

Dr. Ward, known as Eli (pronounced "eelie"), sat down with TIMPRO on a sunny day at the CAES New Haven campus to tell us about her work and goals. A graduate of Brown University and The Forest School at the Yale School of the Environment, she described a range of research interests that led her to this position. "I've always been interested in environmental science," she explained, "but I first became interested in forestry in particular when I worked as an undergraduate research assistant with Dr. Christopher Neill on a project investigating carbon storage and sequestration in Boston's urban forest. I heard about the Yale Forest School at an environmental career fair and was excited for the opportunity to continue developing research on urban and non-urban forest ecology."

Dr. Ward's research includes both applied and theoretical work. "My master's projects looked at the effectiveness of a large-scale tree planting project in Queens, a borough of New York City, as well as the impacts of non-native, invasive plants on soil nutrient availability in urban forests."

She is also familiarizing herself with Dr. Jeff Ward's Stormwise project. "This project focuses on forest management practices that aim to reduce the impacts of storm damage to utility lines along roads," she said. "The recent March storm didn't go through the experimental plots, so we don't know how well it worked. However, I'm excited to use this project to further develop my research on the impacts of invasive plants on forest dynamics since roadsides are often most susceptible to understory plant invasions."



Photo above courtesy of Hallie Metzger
 Photo opposite page courtesy of Dr. Elisabeth Ward

She is also interested in working in and maintaining these long-term research plots to keep tabs on what's happening in forests throughout Connecticut. "We can advise the public better if we maintain observations at sites like these that serve as 'sentinel sites' to study the impacts of emerging pests and diseases, such as Beech Leaf Disease," she pointed out.

"I am also excited to collaborate with Dr. Claire Rutledge, entomologist at CAES, on a project looking at ash regeneration following ash mortality from Emerald Ash Borer in managed and unmanaged sites. The idea is to take advantage of the boom and bust dynamic of Emerald Ash Borer as ash trees die. For example, researchers are trying biological control of the Emerald Ash Borer by releasing a parasitic wasp. Right now there is a lot of ash regeneration that's still too small for predation. If the biological control works to keep Emerald Ash Borer populations down, it could allow for a remnant population of ash trees to return. There's a similar hope for elm regeneration."

Even on her time off, Dr. Eli Ward is a dedicated outdoorswoman who enjoys hiking, gardening, and walking her dog Poppy. After two years of pandemic restrictions, she is excited to be back in the field again to resume work on applied forest health issues. An added benefit at CAES is the opportunity to work alongside many different specialists. And, of course, to stay in touch with her alma mater, The Yale Forest School.

Dr. Ward studying the long-term effects of forest management and Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) invasion on understory plant composition in stiltgrass removal plots at Lake Galliard (Regional Water Authority).





Bits and Chokers

MASS TIMBER MAKES PROGRESS



Journalist Linda Prevost, reporting March 19 for the New York Times, found that universities are currently the driving force in adopting mass timber. Most of the activity is in heavily forested states including Arkansas, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Oregon, and South Carolina where widespread use of the material could help expand or revitalize the forest industry.

The University of Arkansas is among those at the forefront. "We are almost a pilgrimage site for a lot of people," said Peter B. McKeith, the dean of the

University's Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design. The campus now has two mass timber buildings showcasing the material with another on the way. At Michigan State University, the STEM Teaching and Learning Facility was once an old power plant that now incorporates cross-laminated panels in the framing, floors, and ceilings. This building, too, is a magnet for industry professionals.

Prevost cited Sandra Lipien, director of MassTimber@MSU, an education and outreach program there, who noted, "The building goes up a little bit like an Erector Set. That translates into a construction savings."

At the University of Maine, graduate student Liam O'Brien is part of a team developing a cross-laminated timber panel insulated with wood fiber. Such insulation could be made with the waste from timber processing and, if put into prefabricated panels at a factory, further reduce construction time and costs.

O'Brien is fascinated with the carbon-reducing potential of cross-laminated timber panels. "It is a material that should take off in the U.S. as long as we can convince people," he said. "Building sciences can play a large role in how we respond to climate change." But with suppliers principally in Canada and the Pacific Northwest, transportation to building sites currently means upfront costs are higher than building with steel or concrete. Despite that, universities are committed for environmental and other reasons to using mass timber. At the University of Maine, landowners, architects, lumber manufacturers and construction companies share information through the Maine Mass Timber Commercialization Center, in hopes of eventually making the business case for manufacturing cross-laminated timber. Working with an industry partner, the University of Maine has successfully qualified cross-laminated timber made of Maine timber for construction.

But architects' demand will have to increase substantially before it will make good business sense to open up a local production plant. Connecticut isn't likely to generate that kind of demand on its own but might link up with the University of Massachusetts/Amherst which has pioneered mass timber production and construction.



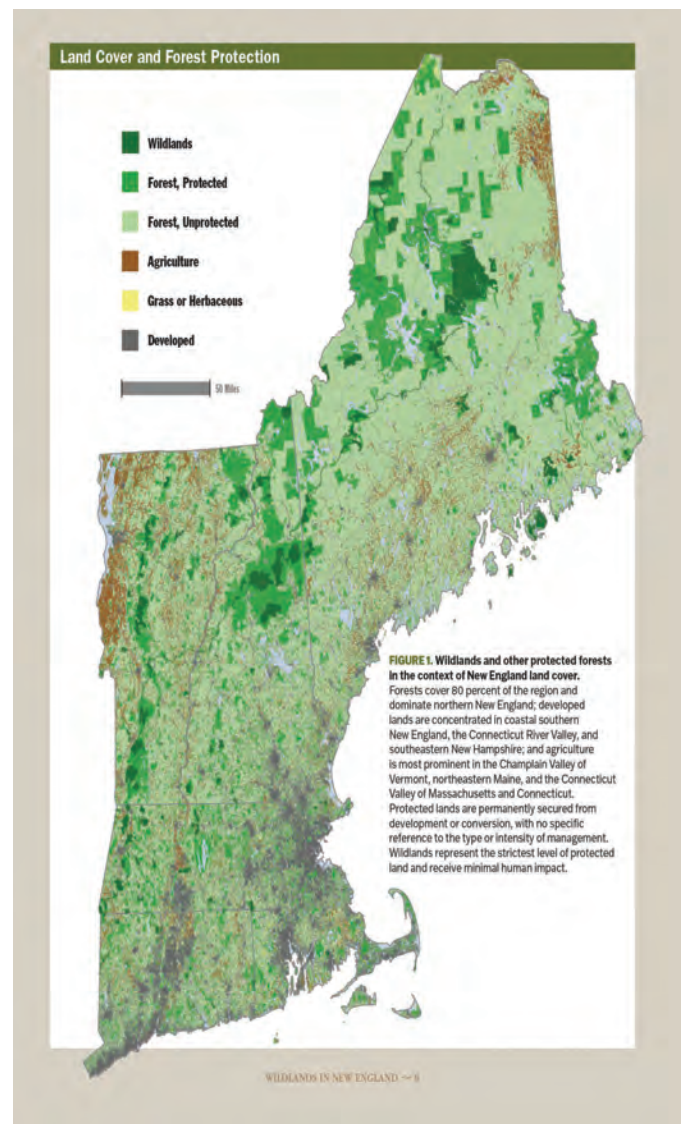
NEFF RELEASES NEW WILDLANDS STUDY

The New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) has released its new *Wildlands in New England* report, a publication of the Wildlands, Woodlands, Farmlands & Communities Integrated Conservation Initiative. The report, which identifies all the currently protected wildlands in New England, reveals that only 3.3 percent of New England's forests are permanently untouched. This falls short of the goal to protect 10% and probably more as wildlands. When considering a region's conserved forests, both managed and wild forests are a part of the mix that should eventually total 30 percent.

To accomplish this, NEFF will deploy the ambitious 30×30 initiative outlined in the January 27, 2021 Executive Order of Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. The report also joins NEFF's 30 Percent Solution and the New England Food Vision "as one of the major pathways that must be integrated and accomplished to secure our future." The 30% Solution aims to reduce atmospheric CO₂ by 30% by 2050. One of the plan's pathways would leverage carbon sequestration by forests as a major sink. A second pathway requires replacing steel and concrete construction materials with wood that continues to store carbon after trees are harvested. The New England Food Visions aims to see the region produce 50% of its produce by 2060.

Partnering with organizations like the Northeast Wilderness Trust, NEFF ensures that a complete vision for the New England forest is achieved - one that has a robust system of protected reserves embedded in a matrix of climate-smart forest management.

NEFF Executive Director Robert Perschel, co-author of the report, notes that it "adds one more important piece to the puzzle of protecting the natural New England landscape." The full report is available to download for free on the NEFF website as is the Executive Summary.





UN FORUM ON FORESTS

The 2023 UN Forum of Forests was held May 18-22 at UN headquarters in New York. It listed five key facts about forests that guide future policies.

1. Speaking at the opening session, Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for UN Economic and Social Affairs, said,

"Forests are one of Earth's most valuable ecosystems. They also form a vital social and safety net for some communities that rely on forests for food and income." Forests cover 31 per cent of the Earth's land area, contain over 80 per cent of the world's terrestrial biodiversity, and store more carbon than the entire atmosphere.

2. Lachezara Stoeva, President of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), told the Forum that forests support our well-being and our lives. More than 1.6 billion people depend on forests for subsistence, livelihood, employment, and income. Some two billion people, roughly one third of the world's population, still depend on wood fuel for cooking and heating. Woodlands play a critical role in tackling poverty, providing decent work, and promoting gender equality, all essential for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

3. Forum Chair Zéphyrin Maniratanga stated that healthy forests support healthy people. "Forests and trees provide clean air and water and sustain us regardless of where we live. Zoonotic diseases account for 75 per cent of all emerging infectious diseases, and they usually occur when natural landscapes, such as forests, are cleared. Restoring forests and planting trees are an essential part of an integrated 'one health' approach for people, species, and the planet." Forests offer solutions, he said, encouraging greater engagement of forest communities in all related processes in climate action, in fighting against desertification, land degradation, and climate change.

4. Yet forests continue to be at risk. The Forum attendees learned that we continue to lose 10 million hectares of forests every year, an area roughly the size of the Republic of Korea. The world's forests are at risk from illegal or unsustainable logging, forest fires, pollution, disease, pests, fragmentation, and the impacts of climate change, including severe storms and other weather events.

5. Therefore, restoring forests holds the key to a sustainable future. It is estimated that two billion hectares of degraded land worldwide could potentially be restored. Revitalizing degraded forest is critical for meeting the UN target of increasing global forest area by 3 per cent in time for the 2030 deadline. Doing so would also help countries create new jobs, prevent soil erosion, protect watersheds, mitigate climate change, and safeguard biodiversity. Given the contributions of sustainably managed forests to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Global Forest Goals of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) were conceived based on their linkages with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

SUNKEN SPRUCE SINGS



Starting as a retirement hobby, the late Eric Bright of BassRock Guitars (left) recovered red spruce “sink logs” lost during 1800s log drives across Schroon Lake in the Adirondacks and crafted guitars from the salvaged wood.

Charles Reinertsen visited BassRock and sampled guitars with the guidance of Bright and his apprentice luthier Beth Melecci. In an article for *Northern Woodlands* (March 2023) he highlighted this most unusual salvage operation. The guitars, Reinertsen wrote, “shared a warm tonal quality.” He noted that red spruce is highly sought after for guitar tops because its “tight, even wood-grain patterns resonate deeply and produce a rich, warm, and crisp tone.”

A study of Schroon Lake Sinker spruce revealed the possible reasons for its rich sound. Bright sent a sample to a researcher at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) who found that decades of submergence enabled networks of fungal growth to invade the cells. It’s possible

that, as these fungi consumed nutrients from the wood, the cells became more porous and thus resonated more freely.

Bright’s technique was arduous. He would snorkel along the shore looking for long silt-covered mounds that signaled the presence of a sunken log. Then he and his daughter Kate would hoist it out of the water and tow it to their house on the lake. Counting growth rings, Bright determined that some trees were several hundred years old. Still visible hammered stamping marks even enabled him to identify the woodlots from which some of the trees came.

Bright would first dry the logs on the shore, then mill them twice to the dimensions he needed. He would then stack the blank pieces on shelves for years of aging. He shaped the guitar bridges from small pieces of burl he saved from the logs. When he completed a guitar, he would begin the process of “opening up”: “To build a guitar, we’re taking all these parts and bringing them into one machine,” Bright explained. “The different parts are fighting each other in the beginning, with the grain going different directions. As you play, the guitar is learning to resonate as one piece. And it only does that if you work at it.”

Bright’s daughter Kate and apprentice Melecci plan to use the backs and tops he started preparing to make guitars. But they know that any guitar made in the future will not have “the Eric Bright Touch.”





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**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:

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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

NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE
Connecticut Ag Days and Game of Logging
Sept.24, 2023
Brooklyn, CT Fairgrounds

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.