

CONNECTICUT



PROFESSIONAL TIMBER
PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

A PUBLICATION OF THE CONNECTICUT
PROFESSIONAL TIMBER PRODUCERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.

WINTER
2023

The Cutting Edge



Inside This Issue

PP 2-3 2023 Log-A-Load

P 4 Our Log-A-Load Partnership, Joan Nichols

P. 5 Log-A-Load Through the Years

P. 6 Assisted Migration?

P. 7 The Sycamore Gap

P. 8 How to Avoid Hitting Deer

P. 9 CAES 2023 Mast Study

P. 10 Don Moore, 80, of Moore's Sawmill

P. 11 Log-A-Load Appeal Form

P. 12 TIMPRO Calendar

Cover photo: Samantha Burr

Board of Directors

Kyle Bruetsch - Pres.

Henry Gundlach - VP

Trish Clark - Treas.

Gerald Bellows - Sec.

Clyde Breakell

Stanley Burr Jr.

Robert Carrington

Andrew Clark

Matthew Derby

Peter Hart

Mike Hinman

Douglas Moore

Joan Nichols

David Trowbridge

Alternates

Crystal Gillotti

Mike Gillotti

Editor Hallie Metzger



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

2023 LOG-A-LOAD FUNDRAISING

For over 15 years, TIMPRO has gone to great lengths to support Log-A-Load.

How far have we gone? These "before" and "after" pictures of President Kyle Bruetsch on the opposite page tell a dramatic story!

At Celebrating Agriculture Day, Sept 24 at the Brooklyn, CT Fairgrounds, Kyle put himself on the line at a dunk tank. Normally, TIMPRO would have raised money through our participation in the Game of Logging held at Celebrating Agriculture Day. But when Kyle heard that there would be no Game of Logging this year, he decided to raise money via the dunk tank. TIMPRO charged \$1 for one ball, \$3 for five, and \$10 if you wanted to hit the button. He estimates he got dunked 6 times. But no one counted the misses!

Thanks to Kyle's willingness to get sopping wet and thanks also to Secretary Jerry Bellows' donated truckload of wood (below) TIMPRO raised almost \$250. The campaign is still going on so we will report a full list of donors and the final sum in a 2024 newsletter.

Much less hazardous but also important were donations from our delegation to the Maine Log-A-Load auction at the American Logging Council banquet in Newry, Maine. TIMPRO participants Thomas Bell, Joan Nichols, and Henry Gundlach donated items for the event including Connecticut maple syrup, wine from Connecticut vineyards, and a toy John Deere Forestry 869 with a Waratah head. TIMPRO contributions added another \$250 to the \$51,000 total raised at the auction. TIMPRO also made a \$100 donation to the Rhode Island Log-A-Load fundraising campaign.



Our connection with Log-A-Load began under past president Joan Nichols. Read the history (p.4) she shared in a recent phone call and learn more about this long-standing relationship.

TIMPRO President Kyle Bruetsch (left) after several dunkings. Standing with him is TIMPRO Secretary Jerry Bellows with the truckload of firewood he donated.

Photo courtesy of Joan Nichols.

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.



Step One: Kyle poised in the dunk tank.

Step Two: A lucky hit and—SPLASH!



Step Three:
Kyle - wet, wrapped
in towels, but smiling.



Photos courtesy of Joan Nichols

HOW TIMPRO AND LOG-A-LOAD BECAME PARTNERS

By Joan Nichols

I had heard about Log-A-Load years before I got involved with TIMPRO when I used to do a women's demonstration at Woodsmen's Field Days in Booneville, NY. That's when I saw it as a way for the forest products industry to raise money for a really good cause. I was especially impressed that 100% of the proceeds go to the cause. It's strictly volunteer and no administrative costs get taken off. At a time when our profession was getting such bad publicity and such a bad image, I thought we needed to do something to showcase the good we bring to the table.

When TIMPRO was founded 2006-7, that brought me full circle back to Log-A-Load as a way for us to give back. When I researched it, I found that no other CT organizations were sponsoring fundraising for it. So this seemed a good fit for us.

I especially like that we support the Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC) in Hartford. I knew about it from a family member who received care there. I saw hundreds of families whose children had really serious problems. There was just an incredible diversity of patients. I knew if we raised money, we'd help someone. So I had us added to Log-A-Load as a trade organization in Connecticut. Later the Game of Logging was looped in as a way to raise even more money.

Fundraising for Log-A-Load is an important way for TIMPRO to support Connecticut residents.





LOG-A-LOAD THROUGH THE YEARS

While Game of Logging (opposite page) has brought in raffle items and donations, the pandemic required us to be resourceful.

In 2022, Stanley Burr, Jr decided to drive his truck (left) from sawmill to sawmill and other forest products industries to pick up donations of wood. His final stop was Scotland Hardwoods where Brian, the log scaler, scanned and tagged each log. The result was a check for \$3700 to add to our total donation.

Another special item was a black walnut bench crafted by TIMPRO Board member Mike Hinman of Hinman Lumber (Supreme Industries). And

then there were the wooden trucks (below). These were a hit with many who were looking for sturdy American-made toys.



A special event, too, before the pandemic, was bringing each year's donation directly to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford. When former TIMPRO president Brennan Sheahan delivered the 2019 check for \$6250 to Jessica Swirson, Assistant Manager of the Hospital (below), Swirson noted the long-standing relationship saying, "Here at Connecticut Children's we are so grateful for our partnership and the amazing efforts that you put towards our hospital." CCMC can count on our continued support towards those efforts.



Photo credits:

Opposite page, Joan Nichols

This page, top: Samantha Burr

This page left: Hallie Metzger

This page right: Scott Organek, CCMC Vice President

NEWS YOU CAN USE

ASSISTED MIGRATION?

John Chapman



JOHNNY APPLESEED.

Image from Howe's Historical Collection

Climate change has prompted a look at "assisted migration," the planned movement of flora, especially trees, from climate zones that are becoming too warm to zones which may be more compatible in the future. Of course, people have been moving plants, carrying seeds or slips, for millennia as they moved from place to place. One home-grown version was John Chapman, whom you likely know as "Johnny Appleseed," the man who walked the country planting apple trees – at least that's the legend. The truth is not far removed and equally remarkable.

Chapman was born on September 26, 1774, in Leominster, Massachusetts. By all accounts, he was a lanky odd-looking young man. Restless, he went west when he was 18 and apprenticed himself to an orchardist who grew apples, thus inspiring his life-long commitment.

But contrary to the legend, he did not scatter seeds. Instead, he planted nurseries, fenced them to protect them from livestock and wildlife, and left the nurseries in the care of a neighbor who sold trees on shares. He returned every few years to check on his trees and collect his profit.

He traveled the country alone, often in harsh and dangerous circumstances. In 1806, he canoed down the Ohio, Muskingum, and Walhonding rivers, using two canoes lashed together to transport himself and his seeds.

In 1819, he was nearly killed picking apples when he fell and caught his neck in the fork of the tree. Fortunately, one of his helpers, eight-year-old John White, found him. But unable to get Chapman out,

White saved his life by cutting the tree down.

Chapman walked barefoot even in the snow wearing old clothes, a tin pot on his head so he didn't have to carry it. One time he happened upon a minister preaching outdoors. Berating the congregation, the minister kept asking, "Where now is there a man who, like the primitive Christians, is traveling to heaven barefooted and clad in coarse raiment?" Tired of the harangue, Chapman strode up and extended his foot saying, "Here now is your primitive Christian."

He was an animal lover. Sheltering one night in the end of a hollow log during a snowstorm, he built a fire to keep warm. Then he found the log occupied by a bear and cubs. Rather than disturb them, he removed his fire and slept on the snow in the open air. However eccentric, though, he was a shrewd businessman who amassed about 1200 acres over three states.

But here's the real surprise: according to journalist Michael Pollan, who has written extensively about food, the apples Chapman spread were not for eating, they were for making cider. So, states Pollan, referring to Dionysus, the Greek God of wine, "Really, what Johnny Appleseed was doing and the reason he was welcome in every cabin in Ohio and Indiana was he was bringing the gift of alcohol to the frontier. He was our American Dionysus.

Image and information courtesy of Wikipedia.

THE SYCAMORE GAP TREE



It was believed to be about 300 years old.

It was looked after by both the Park Authority and the National Trust.

It grew in a natural dip in the landscape near Hexham along the route of Hadrian's Wall, the Roman bulwark against the Scots in the north.

It was famous, having been featured in the 1991 film "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves," starring Kevin Costner.

It won the 2016 England tree of the Year award.

And one rainy September morning, it was gone.

At first, a National Trust Manager thought it had been toppled by the storm. But an inspection revealed a clean cut made by a chainsaw. Furthermore, someone had spraypainted a white line all around the tree's base just below the cut. A man in his 60's and at least two 30-year-olds have been arrested so far.

Now the question is how to restore the location. One suggestion is to let the stump sprout and coppice it or train a new leader. Another is to plant a new sycamore. Specialist propagators from the National Trust Plant Propagation Center have collected and stored seeds from the tree. Whatever choice is made, it will be 200 years before the replacement reaches the stature of the iconic original.

These questions aside, no one can fathom why anyone would cut the tree down in the first place and just leave it there.



Photos and story courtesy British Broadcasting Company.



Bits and Chokers

HOW TO AVOID HITTING A DEER AND WHAT TO DO IF YOU COULDN'T

As days get shorter and darker this time of year and as deer move more during mating season, hitting one is a dangerous possibility. USA TODAY's Gabe Hauari has compiled a guide to avoiding a deer or to minimizing the damage if you do. And CAES' Joseph Barsky warns (p.9) that the recent poor mast year will mean deer are moving often to find food.

To avoid hitting deer.

- ☐ Scan the road: Look ahead while driving. If you spot a deer or other animal ahead of time, you have time to react.
- ☐ Use high-beam headlights: High beams highlight an animal's reflective eyes and increase your overall field of vision.
- ☐ Be cautious at dawn and dusk: These are peak times for deer-related accidents.
- ☐ Always wear your seat belt: The chances of getting injured when hitting an animal are much higher if you don't have your seat belt on.

If you can't avoid a collision:

- ☐ Don't swerve: Swerving is one of the biggest mistakes you can make before you hit a deer. It can cause you to hit another vehicle or someone's property.
- ☐ Don't speed up: Contrary to popular belief, speeding up before hitting a deer will not do you any favors. It can cause more damage to you and your vehicle.
- ☐ Apply the brakes: Hold onto your steering wheel, apply the brakes, and try to come to a complete stop as soon as you can. This will cause significantly less damage than speeding up.

After a collision:

- ☐ Move off the road: That keeps you and other drivers safe. Turn your hazard lights on and move out of traffic. If your vehicle is inoperable, try to get it in a safe spot.
- ☐ Report if the deer is on the road: Reporting the accident can help on many fronts, but especially if the injured deer is still in the roadway.
- ☐ Assess the damage: If you're going to make a claim, snap a few pictures of the vehicle damage. It will help you and your insurance provider when processing the claim.
- ☐ Don't assume your car is OK to drive: Once you've taken all the necessary steps after hitting a deer, you'll want to move on with your life. But don't assume your car is ready to drive off. Thoroughly assess your car and any damages before driving off.



2023 Connecticut Oak Mast Survey Results

Vickie Marie Bomba-Lawendowski

New Haven, CT – The Connecticut Oak Mast Surveillance Program monitors mature trees (300 red oak group, 275 white oak group) across Connecticut and annually assesses acorn crop abundance during a 2-week period in August. Despite continued widespread acorn crop failure for both red and white oaks throughout the state, Middlesex County is experiencing an average white oak acorn crop for the first time since 2016 and lower New London County is experiencing a good red oak acorn crop.

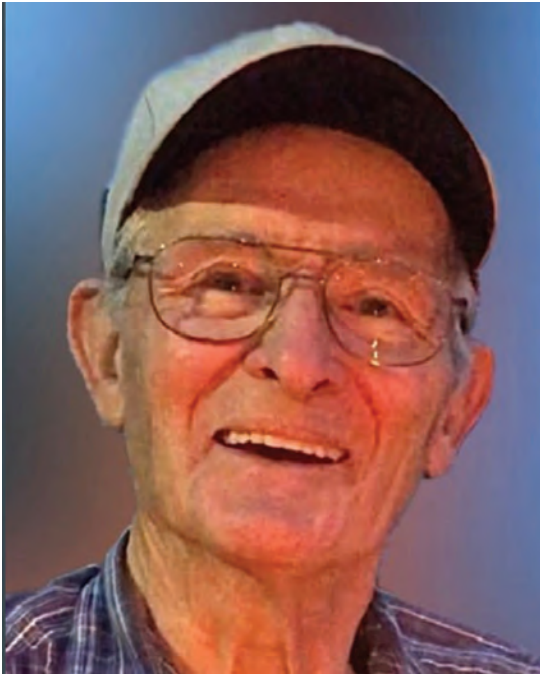
A late season frost on May 18 throughout New England may have negatively impacted pollination of oak flowers and leaf emergence this year, contributing to this year's widespread white oak acorn crop failure, and may potentially impact the 2024 red oak acorn crop; white oak acorns mature in a single growing season while red oak acorns require two. In addition to current challenges facing oak trees, widespread *Lymantria dispar* (spongy moth, formerly "gypsy" moth) outbreaks have contributed to acorn crop failure and oak mortality throughout the region.

"Oaks are a foundational component of many forested 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 warns Connecticut motorists to be wary this fall: "Without a consistent source of acorns, deer may wander in search of alternative food sources resulting in increased potential for collisions with vehicles."

The Connecticut Oak Mast Surveillance Program was established by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Wildlife Division in 2007 and transferred to the Agricultural Experiment Station in 2021. It is coordinated along with six states throughout the eastern United States



Photo courtesy of
Joe Amon,
Connecticut Public Radio



DON MOORE, 80, MOORE SAWMILL

We note with sorrow the passing of a beloved member of our community.

Donald Edwin Moore, 80, of Bloomfield, beloved husband of Amy Kenefick Moore, passed away peacefully on Monday, November 20, 2023.

Born in Hartford, son of the late Ivan N. and Helen D. (Szozda) Moore, Don- graduated from Bloomfield High School and studied electrical engineering at the University of Hartford. After his father's death, he took over Moore's Sawmill, Inc. The mill was founded in the 1870's and is the oldest family-owned business in Bloomfield. Don was proud that the Moore family represented eight generations to have lived on the same piece of property in Bloomfield, and six generations to have owned or operated the sawmill to the present day. Moore's Sawmill had been a major part of the community for over 100 years when the business suffered a huge loss from a fire in 2007. Bloomfield residents and

friends of the family rallied together to raise funds to help them rebuild. Despite losing the building that had housed a wood-planing shop, storage for kiln-dried lumber and offices, Don went on TV that evening stating that the mill would be open for business the next day and it was.

Don loved the sawmill and his family more than anything. He was a hard worker and often expressed his desire for the sawmill to continue in his footsteps with the next generations. He was a kind and generous person. Don would go out of his way to do good things for other people, regardless of what was happening in his own life.

Don loved to put on his "educator's hat" to make sure that customers "wood" understand the problems and possibilities of their projects. People looking for plywood were advised that the last plywood tree had already been sawn. People who were clearing land to build a house were encouraged to "recycle their natural resources into something they would be proud of". A family mourning the storm-related loss of a beloved tree that their children had played in many years ago realized they could build a toybox for their grandchildren out of it with lumber milled at Moore's.

Don loved folk music and played the mountain dulcimer and autoharp. He was co-founder of Connecticut's Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival, also founder and director of the Dulcimer Folk Association (DF#A), a group of players that gathered at least twice monthly in the Hartford area for many years. DF#A was known for performing benefit concerts. He performed and recorded CD's with the group, "Circle of Friends." For many years, Don published a monthly ten-page newsletter about the dulcimer and was particularly proud of his collection of instruments made from lumber that had passed through his sawmill. He was an avid spectator of CYO Basketball in his younger days and was a big fan of UCONN Women's Basketball. Don was a proud member of the CT Antique Machinery Association (CAMA) and the Wood Producers Association (WOODPAC). He was a ham radio operator (Call Sign: K1QPN) for more than 60 years.

Don is survived by his children, Bruce D. Moore of Bloomfield, Benjamin P. Moore and his wife Kerri (Coughlin) of Bloomfield, James I. Moore and his wife Jessica (Toohey) of East Granby, Douglas E. Moore and his wife Dawn Kittredge of Bloomfield, and Kimberly A. Itsou and her husband Paul of Bloomfield. A full list of family is available on the Carmon Funeral Home website.



HELP US SUPPORT THE CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MIRACLE CENTER IN HARTFORD.
DONATE WHAT YOU CAN TO OUR LOG-A-LOAD FOR KIDS CAMPAIGN

Log-a-Load works state by state to provide critical medical care for children.

Log-a-Load is run by volunteers so 100% of your donation
goes to the Connecticut Children's Miracle Center.

USE THE FORM BELOW TO MAKE A DONATION THROUGH TIMPRO

+++++

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO TIMPRO CT WITH "LOG-A-LOAD" ON THE MEMO LINE.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____



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.