

CONNECTICUT



PROFESSIONAL TIMBER
PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

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

SPRING
2024

The Cutting Edge



Inside This Issue

2 TIMPRO NEWS: CT Ag Day,
New Members

3 Jerry Bellows - Long-
standing Secretary Stands
Down

4 Scholarship Updates; Log-
A-Load Donors; Jeffrey Ward

5 Higganum Fishing Derby by
Sam Burr

6-7 Wood Wins Olympic Gold

8 Looking Back at GOL by
Jerry Bellows

9. Pinyon Pine: Fuel vs Fauna

10 Thinking Outside the Box:
Canadians know How to Fell
Trees!

11 In Memoriam: Richard L.
Ames

12: Calendar

Board of Directors

Kyle Bruetsch - Pres.

Henry Gundlach - VP

Trish Clark - Treas.

Stanley Burr Jr.

Robert Carrington

Andrew Clark

Peter Hart

Mike Hinman

Douglas Moore

Alternates

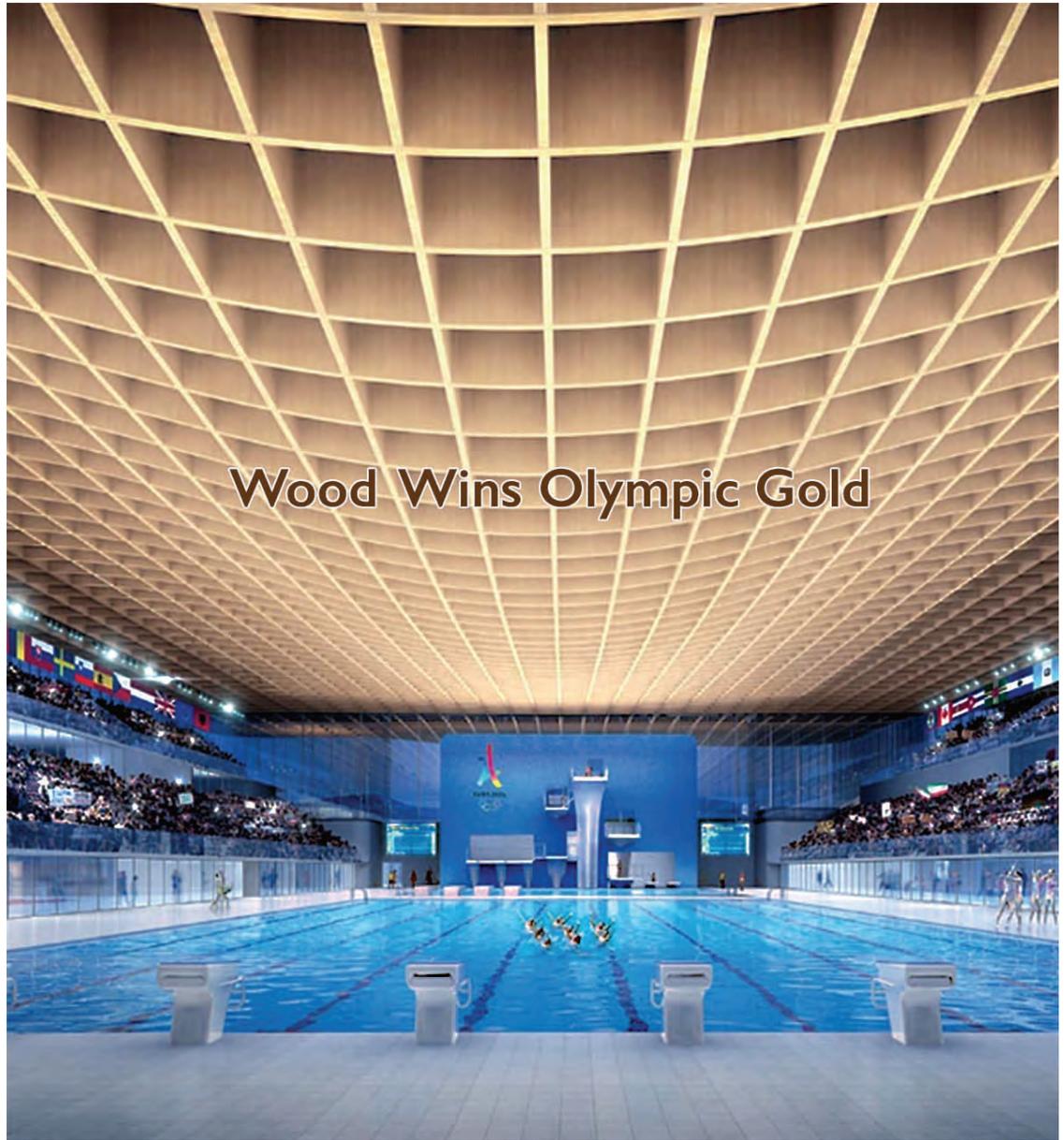
Mathew Derby

Secretary: Kit Serafini

Editor Hallie Metzger

Cover Photo: Courtesy of
The New York Times

Cover Art: Deborah Roach



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 REPRESENTED AT CT AG DAY



Mike and Debbie Hinman volunteered to represent TIMPRO at the Connecticut Ag Days in Hartford on March 20. With Mike Hinman, second from left, are (left to right) TIMPRO members Peter Hart, Henry Gundlach, Kit Serafini, and Joan Nichols

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Corey Ridel, Ridel Portable Sawmill
 Services- Purchaser of Logs/ Log Buyer, Custom Sawing
 Products- Hardwood Lumber, Softwood Lumber, Flooring
 Certification- CT Grown

Andrew Hubbard, MDC
 Services- Forestry/ Land Management, Supporting Member
 Certification- Forester

Dan Lawrence, MDC
 Services- Forestry/ Land Management, Supporting Member
 Certification- Forester



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.

LONG-STANDING TIMPRO SECRETARY STEPS DOWN

Jerry Bellows joined TIMPRO shortly after it was formed. He notes that his membership number - #09 - shows how early it was. "I wasn't secretary from the beginning. My only qualification was that I was willing to do the job. Then President Joan [Nichols] agreed to let me try. I learned by a lot by trial and error, as well as input from the rest of the Board," he said.

Born in Sterling, Jerry has lived in Connecticut all his working life. "I had an interest in logging at an early age, I went to work for a local logger when I was 19 and thought I could make a living out of it. I didn't realize then what a lean living it would be," he said. His father died when he was 17 and that changed his path in life. "I'd like to think that a different path brought me to the same place." His grandfather was a sawyer as well as a logger but that was decades earlier, using mostly hand saws and horses. "I wasn't aware of any of that until I took an interest in the working in the woods"

Reflecting on his years as a logger, he pointed out how the work really hasn't changed but the methods have. Hand saws and horses then, mechanical harvesters and forwarders now. "Weather is still a major problem and we are still at her mercy, although a climate-controlled cab sure makes it a little more tolerable. We had one cold week in the last month, but then it warms up and starts raining again and that slows everything to a crawl."

Increased regulation is another problem. "Much of the land managed by DEEP is subject to seasonal work restrictions because of endangered species - bats, turtles, rattlesnakes, and some rare plants. I do give the state foresters credit as they try to identify these areas as opposed to stopping all logging. We have a substantial amount of work in these areas and it's difficult to manage our own time the way we used to. If there are two weeks to finish a job and good weather we may still have to move off because of the seasonal restriction."

Jerry noted how much time he now has to spend maintaining his two forwarders and two harvesters: "More machines = more days of maintenance. Thankfully my son Jeremy picked up on the electrical repairs, saving us a lot of time and expense. Something always needs repair usually when you can least afford the time, like two weeks before the seasonal restriction kicks in. We try to always have some work that's not going to be affected by the time restrictions and hope the weather cooperates."

For Jerry, stepping down as secretary doesn't really mean retiring though. "I could retire but don't think I ever will. I work with my son Jeremy and as long as he can work with me, I'll probably keep working in some capacity," he said. "I'll still be active in TIMPRO but I hope to have more time for hunting and fishing. The last several years I've gone Elk hunting in Colorado, Montana; Bear/Deer in Maine; Deer in Tennessee; Moose in Newfoundland. Thankfully I'm not dependent on what I shoot. I guess I really hope to live long enough (and still make enough \$) to take my grandson Cod or Haddock fishing or Small Mouth Bass fishing in Maine. I have a little better luck doing that."



Jerry with Treasurer Trish Clark at a 2017 Annual Meeting.

2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER UPDATES

Noah Green reports, "My first semester at UConn went very well. It was a little slow-paced but made for a great transition and I did very well academically making the Dean's list. I'm ready for the Spring semester. I've got lots of courses and opportunities coming up that I'm really excited about. Among others, I'll be taking Environmental Conservation, Global Sustainable Natural Resource Management, and Principles and Concepts of Agroecology." Fejzo Akaratovic has also enjoyed a good start this past fall: "My first semester went well, I started my second semester and hope to do even better. Over break I have been running my hounds and doing some hunting and trapping and training beagles."

2023 LOG-A-LOAD DONORS

This was banner year for TIMPRO's annual fundraising and we are grateful to our generous donors.

Mike and Crystal Gillotti

Bob Verrier

Brian and Bridget Park

Ed McGuire

Hull Forest Products

Stanley Burr- Fishing Derby

Connecticut Mulch

Rebekahs Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society, LLC

Robert and Debra Carrington

Bob's Landclearing Inc

Pete Marlowe, Andrew Clark and Stanley Burr- Load of Logs

Rhode Island Wood Operators Org

Total \$4,240.00

JEFFREY S WARD APPOINTED SAF FELLOW

Jeffrey S. Ward, now retired from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Department of Environmental Science and Forestry, has been honored with an appointment as a Fellow in the New England Society of American Foresters. Active on the "Stormwise" project, Jeff was a frequent presenter at our CEU events, Jeff also hosted TIMPRO gatherings at the Lockwood Farm in Hamden, Connecticut.

2023 FISHING DERBY IN HIGGANUM

By Sam Burr

Every Spring, Higganum families flock to the Burr family's pond for the annual fishing derby to benefit Log-A-Load in hopes of winning a prize in one of many categories, such as "Largest Fish", "Next Fish" (every half hour) and the favorite, "Smallest Fish".

At 8:00 A.M. on May 6, hooks were baited and lines dropped. Out of the gate, Ethan F. hooked for the "First Fish" award and won a gift certificate to Deb's Restaurant in Higganum. Thirty five kids signed in that morning and nine more young people won gift certificates to the following businesses: Brewed Awakening, Jack's Country Restaurant, Blue Highway Diner, AJ'S Pizza, Pizzeria Da Vinci, Dino's Pizza Restaurant, Higgs, and HK Dairy Barn.

Throughout, a total of 25 trout were caught. Families who did not wish to keep the fragile breed, which can't be thrown back, donated them to A Place Called Hope. This non-profit bird of prey rehabilitation center in Killingworth, CT heals injured, orphaned or ill birds and returns them to the wild. They accept donations like these trout and financial donations at www.aplacecalledhoperaptors.com.

At the end of the day, Max P. brought home the grand prize for "Largest Fish" with a 17" Large Mouth Bass weighing a whopping three pounds. The most sought-after prize for smallest fish went through many hands until the winning fish was reeled in, measuring under three inches.

High School students volunteered for community service hours during the event. They helped bait hooks, cook and serve hotdogs, measure fish, and keep track of the award winners. Many of these teen volunteers grew up fishing at this derby and love to give back to their community. Frank Ziobron of Higganum has been the M.C. and organizer of the derby for many years. His bus driving position in town affords him the opportunity to get the word out, and the kids love to see Frank outside of his usual profession. His booming voice keeps all the families aware of the awards and his always-positive attitude ensures all participants have a great time regardless of walking away with a prize.

The event is provided at no cost to attendees. The pond's owner, Stanley Burr, privately stocks the trout and Frank collects the gift certificates, bait, and tackle donations from The Fishin' Factory in Middletown and Fuel Plus in Higganum. He also provides the hot dogs and beverages. In lieu of a fee, families have the opportunity to donate to Log-A-Load for Kids.

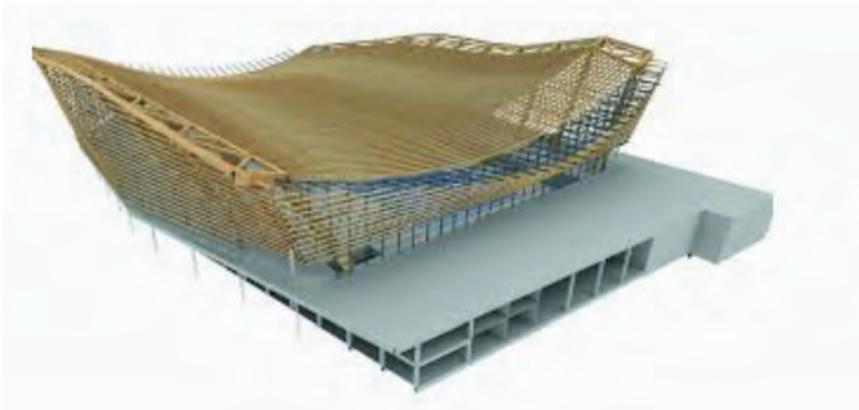
The event netted \$200 as part of the larger 2023 amount collected by the Connecticut Timber Producers Association. In Connecticut, all Log-A-Load donations benefit Connecticut Children's Hospital based in Hartford. See opposite page for donors and grand total.

The next annual fishing derby will be held in May 2024 and will be advertised both locally and on the TIMPRO Instagram page, @CT_Timber_Pro.



Max Pizzorusso, with his brother Sam holds the fish that won him the "Largest Fish Prize." It was their first time entering the Derby and they can't

NEWS YOU CAN USE



WOOD WINS OLYMPIC GOLD

In 2020 the International Olympic Executive Committee announced Olympic Agenda 2020+5 to strengthen planning and execution including sustainable development. As a result, France has made wood the centerpiece of both new construction and of adaptations to existing facilities.

The best example is the new Aquatic Center (left). It will be a showpiece of Douglas Fir and Pine with a 5,000-square meter roof that curves like a wave. The glue-laminated

timber roof manufactured by Mathis Construction Bois spans 89 meters but is only 50 centimeters thick.

It is raised at the sides to accommodate the stands while dipping in the middle to reduce the volume of air to be heated. According to the designers, "The roof, stretched with wooden beams, magnifies the space thanks to its dynamic curves that make it both intimate and airy." The design is "adapted to open heights and optimal visibility from the stands, this sculpted membrane seems to move and undulate like a living organism." Inside, timber supports loads of up to 800 tons. "By using wood for this monumental structure, the proposal doubles the required minimum percentage of bio-sourced materials," said Laurie Mériaud, lead architect at VenhoevenCS. That can give wooden buildings an extra sensual charm, according to Cécilia Gross, a VenhoevenCS partner. "We don't have to paint it," she says. "It has warmth, it has color, and it has a scent. You can smell it when you're in the pool."

The George Vallerey Aquatic Center, where Johnny Weismuller won 1924 gold for America, will become a training center. It still has its original wooden benches but is getting a new wooden roof. The old roof beams will be repurposed as countertops.

Iconic Paris buildings will also play their part. For wrestling and judo, visitors will enter the Grand Palais (below) through a massive glue-laminated timber superstructure archway incorporating 1500 cubic meters of PEFC-certified European spruce.

The nearby Athletes Village complex will use wood-frame construction with towers constructed from mass timber for the first 8 floors but steel-supported for upper levels.

According to Frank Mathis, the president of Mathis Construction Bois, founded in 1809, the process is so streamlined and effective that the mill has been preparing "enough components to build a tennis court-sized part of the structure every day." Assembling the buildings onsite is even swifter. "With some of our products," Mathis says, "we assemble the pieces twice as fast as we fabricate them."

Photo credit: Wiki Commons



In Mathis company hangars, operations dry wood, cut planks into pieces, and glue them together. The only large machine is a press that bends huge pieces of laminated wood up to 45 meters long into arches for roof supports. The material is so pliable that the wood can gain and retain the desired shape after just a day in the press before being shipped to a construction site.

France's potential as a timber producer is substantial, says Georges-Henri Florentin, president of France Bois 24, an organization formed to encourage wood construction during and after the Olympics. But he says France harvests just 60 per cent of the wood it is able to fell sustainably. Though the country has 17 million hectares of wood, three-quarters of that is on private land, broken up into small parcels.

"There's a myriad very small owners, and it's hard to figure out who owns what. Some people don't even realize that they have forests," says Jerome Martinez, head of the Bois de France certification label which guarantees that wood is sourced and processed in the country. "It's a real stumbling block."



Above right: A pressed wooden form shapes concrete for the Athletes Village.

Right: A Mathis hangar.

Photo courtesy of Mathis



Compiled from articles by Fergus O'Sullivan and Jenny Che, March 19, 2024, *Australia Financial Review*; Somini Sengupta and Catherine Porter, March 16, 2024, *The New York Times*; and Jason Ross, March 11, 2024, *Wood Central*.



Bits and Chokers

LOOKING BACK AT THE GAME OF LOGGING

By Jerry Bellows

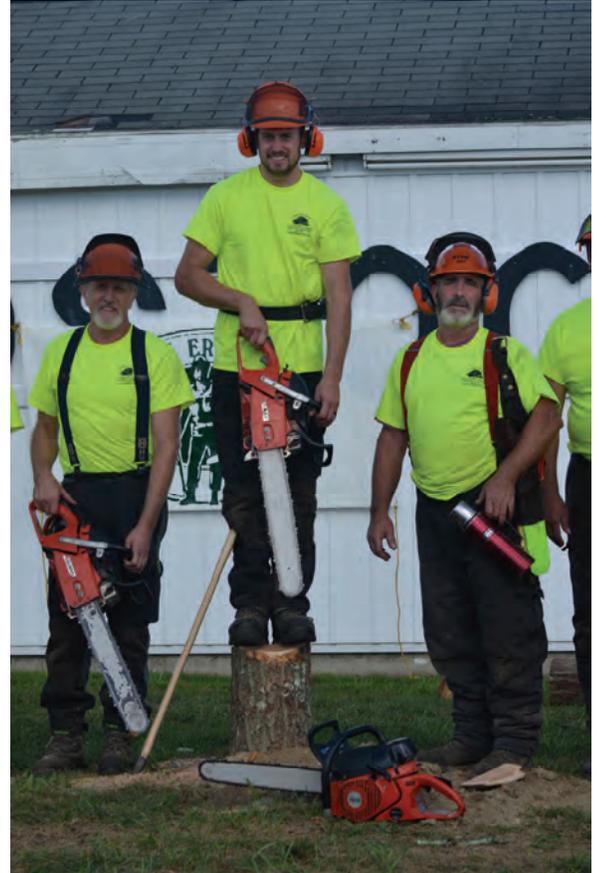
My first exposure to GOL was around 1999 at the suggestion of state forester Judd White. Of course my attitude was that I couldn't afford the time off and that triggered a bit of an angry response from Judd. He suggested that if I learned a few things maybe I could afford to take some time off. As much as I hate to admit it, he was right. I took the four-day course stretched out over 4 weeks giving us time to practice what we had learned before the next class. I did well enough to be invited to my first regional competition in Berlin, NH. To my surprise I took first place giving me a spot at the Nationals in Nelsonville, Ohio where I took second place.

During the next several years I took several four-day courses as well as a few one-day classes.

Because I believed in the training, I was able to convince several others to take the training as well. I didn't realize in the beginning I would also be financing the training - money well spent.

Of course the better you do at something the more interest you have. Over the next several years, the GOL regionals took place on Chester, Vt directed by instructor John Adler (VT) and the Nationals were in Boonsville, NY. After the Ct Timber Producers was formed in 2007, then V President Paul Berk, along with other TimPro members, convinced GOL instructor Bill Girard to host our own Southern New England regional in Woodstock Ct with the help of GOL instructor Bill Lindloff (NY). Now the National competitions are in State College, PA.

Over the years I was fortunate to meet several GOL instructors and many competitors at the Nationals. All the instructors I met were very good, in no small part because they were also loggers when not doing actual training. The skill level of the competitors has increased to the point it's hard for me to place in the money anymore. My own son Jeremy went from last place consistently to first/second place consistently at our regionals. I'm sure it's not because of my age, although I did hear one of the younger competitors gasp when I told him how many years I've been logging.



Above: left to right:
Jerry Bellows, Jeremy Bellows, and Paul Burke
Photo courtesy of Joan Nichols

PINYON PINE: FUEL VS FAUNA

A scrubby forest of pinyon pine and juniper in Lincoln County, Nevada would seem a great opportunity for harvest as a biofuel. At least that's how Varlin Higbee, Lincoln County Commissioner, (below) sees it. "They're just a wildfire waiting to happen." He believes his community would benefit from a plan to turn them into methanol.

Recently, Higbee and other Nevada officials proposed producing green methanol that could be used for everything from generating electricity to powering cargo ships calling on the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. And in January, Nevada Governor Joe Lombardo signed a declaration of understanding with Denmark to develop an industrial park in Lincoln County to extract methanol from wood for use as a fuel additive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from diesel engines.

Nevada officials want to put the facility in the middle of about 1.3 million acres of pinyon-juniper woodlands on public lands northeast of Las Vegas. The proposed site is served by a Union Pacific mainline terminating at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. It could attract \$260 million in investments, create 150 sorely needed local jobs and become a model for creating similar industrial parks in other parts of Nevada.

The Bureau of Land Management is working on the proposal with the governor's economic development office, engineers in Denmark, and Sixco Nevada Inc., a consortium of companies focused on deployment of new technologies. The BLM considers pinyon pine and juniper trees a weedy species that invades sagebrush rangelands and increases the risk of wildfire. They say an overabundance of pinyon-juniper woodlands fueled the 2022 Calf Canyon-Hermits Peak fire in New Mexico which burned 341,735 acres, a state record.

But Gary Hughes of Biofuelwatch, an advocacy group focused on the impact of bioenergy development, dismissed the proposal as "a technological dead-end road" and waste of healthy trees. "So far, efforts to produce methanol from wood at scale for the aviation industry, for example, have all failed," he said. Critics of the project worry that the loss and degradation of pinyon-juniper woodlands threatens several animal species, including the bright blue pinyon jay, which is under consideration for federal listing as an endangered species.

The Western Watershed Project and The Center for Biological Diversity have filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court challenging the BLM's approval of a plan to remove pinyon-juniper forests across more than 380,000 acres of sagebrush shrublands on federal land in eastern Nevada. The lawsuit claims the plan would eradicate habitat for imperiled sage grouse and pinyon jays by "chaining" — dragging an anchor chain from a U.S. Navy vessel between two bulldozers in order to uproot and crush pinyon-juniper forests and sagebrush. However, Derick Hembd, president of Sixco Nevada, said the governor's proposal calls for using shears and saws to harvest individual trees, leaving saplings and sagebrush untouched.

This conflict, first written up by Louis Sahagun in the *Los Angeles Times*, typifies the many conflicts we can expect in our future as powerful interests collide with no easy way to judge costs and benefits.



THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

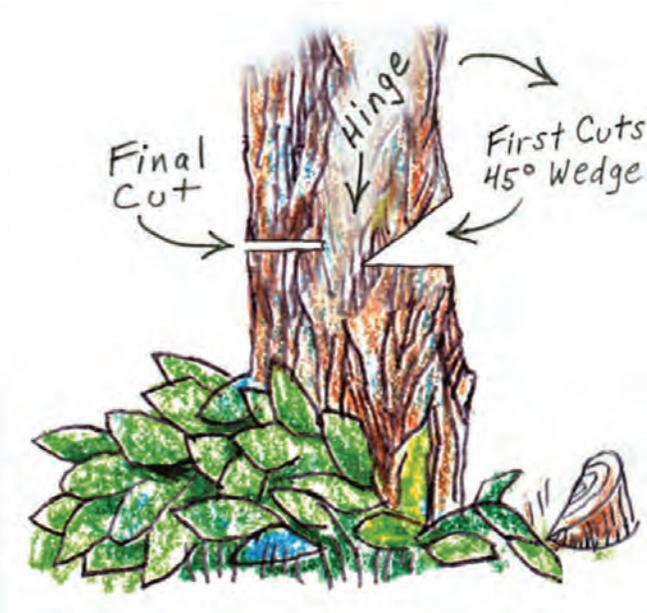
CANADIANS KNOW HOW TO FELL TREES

Could you explain how to cut down a tree for someone who'd never done it?

Author Joshua Rothman stumbled when he attempted to do just that for a November 20, 2023 *New Yorker* interview with Nobel Prize-winning scientist Geoffrey Hinton.

Chainsaw in hand, Hinton invited Rothman to walk his island property in Ontario's Gregorian Bay. When Hinton saw a tree he wanted to cut down, Rothman wrote: "The tree was a leafy cedar, perhaps twenty feet tall: Hinton looked up to see which way it was leaning, then started the saw and began to cut into the trunk on the side opposite the lean. He removed the saw, and made another converging cut to form a V. Then he stopped and turned to me. 'Because the tree leans away from the cut, the V will open up as you go deeper, and the blade won't get stuck,' he explained. ... Eventually he began a second cut on the other side of the tree angling it toward the first." Rothman describes how Hinton worked back and forth "deepening both cuts" until "Suddenly, almost soundlessly,.. [The] tree fell under its own weight.."

This description prompted a number of angry letters such as this one, noting that Hinton "...starts by cutting out a V-shaped wedge on the side away from the tree's lean, then proceeds to make a second cut on the opposite side, going back and forth." Pointing out how dangerous that was, the letter writer described the proper technique: "cut a wedge into the 'fall' side...typically about a third of the way through." Then, he continued, cut a wedge toward the V from the back side until the uncut fibers "act as a hinge that guides the direction of the fall and prevents the base of the trunk from bouncing."



That letter brought a retort from Hinton himself published December 18. Both Rothman and the letter writer, Hinton wrote, : "... incorrectly described my tree-felling process. The diameter of the tree in question – a twenty-foot cedar was greater than the length of my wimpy fourteen-inch chainsaw so the back-and-forth technique that he observed was a V on the lower side of the tree, the side of its lean, and then to make a cut on the higher side; not, as was previously written and as the letter noted, to make a first cut opposite the tree's lean."

He ended: "Canadians know how to fell trees."

TIMPRO members, how would *you* describe proper tree felling technique?

IN MEMORIAM - RICHARD L. AMES

Former TIMPRO member Richard L. Ames, 81, passed away on Monday, December 25, 2023, after a brief illness. He was born on November 30, 1942, in Northampton, MA to the late Stafia and Richard M. Ames. In 1960 he graduated from Williamsburg High School and enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he was stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii as an Airplane Mechanic in the Naval Airwing. Upon completion of service, he was employed by Pratt & Whitney, and Hamilton Standard as a Jet Engine Mechanic.

In 1966 he purchased his first skidder and began his 57-year career of timber harvesting as Ames Logging. He supplied many local mills with his timber such as Peck, Oleksak, Bannish, Kelly Lumber, and Thompson Native Lumber. With his love for logging, he taught his two sons the logging business and worked alongside them. He then went on and worked extensively on the land around Providence Water Supply Boards Reservoir cutting most of the red pine on the thirteen-thousand-acre watershed earning him the nickname "The Red Pine King". Those who knew him painted a picture of an exceptional logger and person.

He is survived by his wife of 19 years Mary (Birt) Ames, and her extended family, mother of his children Gertrude Ames, Kevin L. (Kathy) Ames, Richard F. (Amy) Ames, Marcy Venne, Kirsten (Charlie) Henshaw, His grandchildren Erika and Alyssa Ames, Ryan and Zach Ames, Lauren and Kevin Venne, and Gavin and Sharlyse Henshaw, the late Richard M. and Stafia Ames, his brother Robert Ames, and sister Lynn Ames. He has also left behind by many life-long friends.

A Celebration for Life was held on January 28, 2024 service at 1 pm at the VFW Post 5446, 7 Winsor Ave, Plainfield, CT.





PO Box 132
Bozrah, CT
06334

**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 132

Bozrah, CT 06334

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

**ANNUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10
NORBROOK BREWERY, COLEBROOK, CT**

**AMERICAN LOGGERS COUNCIL DC FLY IN
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17**

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.