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Chris Latz

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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 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Connecticut Timber Producers Association announced two recipients for its Natural Resources Scholarship. The scholarships of \$500 each are awarded annually to Connecticut high school students who are planning to attend two- or four-year schools of higher education in the field of natural resources.

This year's awardees are:

Tyler J. Anderson of Sharon, Connecticut. A graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School, he will be attending SUNY Cobleskill in Cobleskill, NY with a focus on agricultural power machinery.

Lucy St. Germain of Thompson, Connecticut. A graduate of Killingly High School, she will attend University of Connecticut with a focus on Biology and Environmental Science.

Look for more information about them in the Fall Newsletter.

CONNECTICUT AG DAYS

Kit Serafini, Timpro Secretary

This year Ag Day at the Capitol was held on Wednesday, March 19, from 10 am-1 pm. The Capitol was packed! There were many FFA and 4-H members along with people from the general public in attendance.



Henry Gundlach, Acting Timpro President, and Joan Nichols, Timpro Legislative Representative, provided samples of CT forest products that sparked many questions and comments. I noticed many people were interested in CT-made products, forest fires, and where and how to get started managing their wood lots. Most of the students I spoke to were underclassmen, so they were still exploring their career options, but all of them knew they wanted to do something in the field of natural resources.

Left to right at Ag Day: Peter Hart, Mike Hinman, Henry Gundlach, Kit Serafini, 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, 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 EDUCATION OUTREACH UPDATE

In a continuing effort to reach out to high schools students Timpro Board member Joan Nichols recently visited Middletown High School in Middletown, CT and Rockville High School in Vernon, CT.

At Middletown High School, Joan spoke to seniors in the agriscience natural resources class about careers in natural resources. She and the students then boarded a bus for a short ride to a wooded area contiguous to another Middletown school. The agriscience natural resources instructor is interested in creating a loop trail for students to learn about tree species, vernal pools, wildlife, and forest health. The students spent time in the woods with Joan (right) identifying trees, using a diameter tape and increment borer to age a 39" DBH white oak and identify tree diseases and a vernal pool.



Henry Gundlach and Mike Hinman (left) talked about the forest products industry at a Shepaug Valley High School event.

At Rockville High School Joan represented Timpro at a school-wide career fair where she spoke with students about careers in natural resources, environmental science, wildlife, forestry and the forest products industry. One young gentleman enjoys carpentry work and asked where he could source local native lumber for his wood working projects. He was glad to add one of Timpro's carpenter pencils to his toolbox!

At the Ledyard High School career fair in Ledyard, CT which is also a regional agriscience center, Joan was joined by 60 other career professionals. They were assigned a classroom each and students interested in various careers rotated through the classrooms where each professional had 30 minutes to answer questions and engage with students about their respective professions.

Timpro Secretary Kit Serafini and Acting President Henry Gundlach represented Timpro at the Connecticut Envirothon competition in May (below) while Joan Nichols assisted with the forestry station. The Envirothon was held this year at Indian Rock Nature Preserve in Bristol, CT (below).



MANAGING OUR FORESTS AND MORE!

2025 TIMPRO ANNUAL MEETING AND PIG ROAST

Kit Serafini, Timpro Secretary

More than 40 loggers, sawyers, foresters, truckers, and others attended the 2025 Timpro Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 26th at the Guilford Sportsman's Association in Guilford, CT. The day started with donuts and coffee and a welcome from Timpro acting president Henry Gundlach. Alex Amendola, State Forester from CT DEEP, opened the meeting with a presentation about forestry practices and the impact they have on the surrounding wildlife. Next, Dr. Robert E. Marra, Associate Scientist/Forest Pathologist from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, (opposite page above right) discussed Beech leaf disease - its background, biology, how the disease has impacted Japan, and how Japan is managing it. The morning ended with Robbo Holleran, a consulting forester from Vermont, who talked about logger/landowner/forester collaborations. He described the different roles each one plays, how each impacts the others, and how to navigate relationships to benefit everyone involved.

After lunch, there was a brief presentation from Robbo (opposite page, below right) about Carbon Management and ways to answer the question "Should we manage forests?" The program ended with a very wet field walk examining the NRCS trail work done at the Guilford Sportsman's Club by Andrew Bosse, CT forester, and an equipment demonstration on an active Timber Stand Improvement site by Stanley Burr Jr, CT logger.

We all then gathered for a pig roast supervised by Timpro member and logger John Wolfe. The program ended with a social gathering as we enjoyed the meal together.

A special THANK YOU! To the Guilford Sportsman's Association, all the presenters, and to everyone who donated their time, efforts, and resources to make this day happen!





Photos courtesy of Kit Serafini

A TALE OF TWO TALLIES: A LOOK AT THE ECONOMICS OF LOGGING

Henry Gundlach made a dramatic presentation for the forest products industry at a gathering in New Haven on Tuesday, April 8.

He was invited by Nick Zito, Division of Forestry, CT-DEEP, to speak at a session of the two-day meeting of the Forest Markets & Utilization Committee of the Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance. Attendees from a 20-state region learned about the challenges facing forest markets and wood utilization.

Representing Timpro at a session on the wood products industry and forest economics, Henry talked about the industry challenges, especially for hardwoods.

If a picture is worth a 1,000 words, the two tally sheets Henry displayed, one from 1994 and one from 2025, were evidence that hardwood prices have hardly budged over three decades. That might not matter if costs had remained the same, but we know that they did not. Equipment purchase, maintenance, fuel – every expense has become considerably higher in that decade. The result is a shrinking profit margin.

Christopher Martin, CT-DEEP Forestry Division Director, attested to the great job Henry did laying out the reality of logging. He reported that Henry's presentation was engaging, prompted many good follow-up questions, and promoted lively discussions. As Henry told the gathering, it's hard to make a living at logging when expenses go up and revenues stay flat. "The hardwood industry is suffering. The forestry industry needs an influencer/marketer to bring the entire industry to the new age," he concluded.

DATE	F.O.B.
11/18/94	MILL
6681' 4/4 Red Oak	
Fas 592' @ \$1180--	\$ 698.56
Fif 682 @ 1170--	797.94
Sel 705 @ 950--	669.75
1c 1958 @ 720--	1409.76
2c 2625 @ 440--	1155.00
3a 119 @ 340--	40.46
1720' 8/4 Red Oak	
F/B 1690' @ \$1300--	\$2197.00
1c 30 @ 860--	25.80
	\$6994.27
Less 2% disc.	139.88
	\$6854.39

4/4	1770	940	485	
5/4	1825	985	505	
6/4	1870	1025		
8/4	1950			
SOFT MAPLE - UNSELECTED				
	FAS	#1C	#2A	#2B
4/4	1655	800	340	255
5/4	1690	840	390	265
6/4	1735	895	425	270
8/4	1795	935	450	275
FAS&SEL ALONE ADD \$0				
3-21-25				
RED OAK				
	FAS	#1C	#2A	#3A
4/4	1225	800	470	385
5/4	1260	805	500	415
6/4	1300	810	555	465
8/4	1375	830	---	---
FAS&SEL ALONE			#2A ALONE	
4/4 & 5/4 ADD \$0			4/4	\$485
6/4 & 8/4 ADD \$0				
WHITE OAK				
	FAS	#1C	#2A	#3A
4/4	3000	1230	535	450
5/4	3265	1290	560	490
6/4	3425	1335	---	---
FAS&SEL ALONE				
4/4, 5/4, & 6/4 ADD \$0				
SEL PRICES \$20/M LESS THAN FAS				
CANTS - GREEN				

THRIVE FARM: MORE THAN FOREST PRODUCTS

"I was a normal suburban kid," admits Timpro member Chris Latz, President of Thrive Farm, about growing up in Simsbury. "I don't have a farming background. My father was an insurance executive." And yet here he is at 34 running Thrive Farm and providing topsoil, mulch, compost, firewood and other products, and produce throughout his area.

It started with summer camp at Flamig Farm, the maiden name of the owner's mother, when he was 5. "My mom wanted me to 'get out in the dirt.' I liked it so much I kept it up. My aunts say they always knew I was going to be a farmer," says Chris. He graduated from University of Connecticut with a major in Agriculture.

In 2015 he took over operations for Flamig Farm, a business he had worked at since he was 13. "At that time it was basically just a mulch business and a bit of compost," he explained. "It was originally a family farm and also had a petting zoo, summer camp, and other agritourism attractions. We branched off and expanded as Flamig Farm Earth Products. We kept the same name so customers wouldn't be confused."



Above: Chris Latz with tomato plants for the vegetable garden.

Left: Produce donation table

Photos courtesy of Thrive Farm



Photo opposite page courtesy of Henry Gundlach



UConn students minoring in Sustainable Agriculture participated in a summer internship at Thrive Farm.

Facing Page: Right, Staff member Sam Coburn helps maintain machinery

Below left, woodpile in winter

Chris ran it under that name for another 8-9 years as a mostly seasonal operation providing firewood but steadily began to expand into what he calls a niche “hyperlocal” operation serving an area with about a 15-mile radius. “Pretty much all our stock comes from that same area. We’re not bringing in logs from Canada or Vermont. We try to be sustainable. We don’t do the clearing but serve as a place to recycle the wood into its best use.”

A major part of Chris’ business plan was to create a year-round operation that provides steady employment. The right moment came in 2024 when he had the opportunity to relocate to a new farm across town. This expanded his farm from 2 ½ acres to almost 10. That expansion also provided the right time to rebrand with a new name – Thrive Farm - and to update the logo.

Mulch and compost had kept him busy in the Spring but it was seasonal. “It was basically 3 months of work,” he said. So he added two new products: topsoil, which added an early Fall season, and firewood, which enabled him to employ people from summer through winter.

He now employs about 10 people, including delivery drivers. Five are full-time, the rest are seasonal. His equipment has expanded accordingly and now includes wheel loaders, excavators, bulldozers, and log skidders.

“Now we’re extremely busy year-round,” he said. “Now we’re splitting wood in the winter and summer but not selling it until the fall. It’s nicely balanced. And we hope to get into kiln-dried firewood so we would then keep seasoned, ready-to-burn firewood all year round. We run out every single year! Plus firewood takes up so much space and takes so long to dry.”

Most innovative, Chris uses digital tools on the Thrive Farm website that enable customers to review his products and order them online. Customers get updates on delivery time and can pin on a map exactly where a load of firewood or topsoil should be dropped by the specially designed trucks.

Facing page: The wood pile in winter

The trucks have software installed that lets the dispatcher know where they are at any point during the day. "If a customer calls looking for a delivery, we can find where the truck is without having to call the driver. The software also helps us track driver safety, efficiency, and truck maintenance," Chris explained. The trucks are custom built with the tightest turning radius and shortest wheelbase possible to be extremely maneuverable on a customer's property.

"This is a big part of our customer satisfaction as we can get the products right where the customer wants it without damaging their property. We aren't delivering to large lots or yards. We're dumping in driveways with all sorts of obstacles," he added. He also worked with a local fabricator to custom design a dump bed with multiple compartments. This allows him to bring two products to the same customer in one trip or take two deliveries out without having to return to the load-up yard.

This has been a pivotal year not only for Thrive Farm but also for Chris. He got married in September and is working on a historic 1850s barn in Avon which he and his wife plan to convert into a house.

Overall, Chris states, "We've found a niche most people don't want to work in. We go direct to consumer. No middleman. A customer can see availability online, place the order themselves online, including setting up delivery. If they have any questions or need help we have someone available by phone, in the office, 9 hours a day." Being in tune with what the consumer wants, he notes, has enabled him to raise the price because customers know exactly what they're getting and the quality of the product. "They're guaranteed that the wood is seasoned, double-screened. If they have a problem, they can talk with our manager and we will get them a solution."

He tells his customers, "We're there for you."



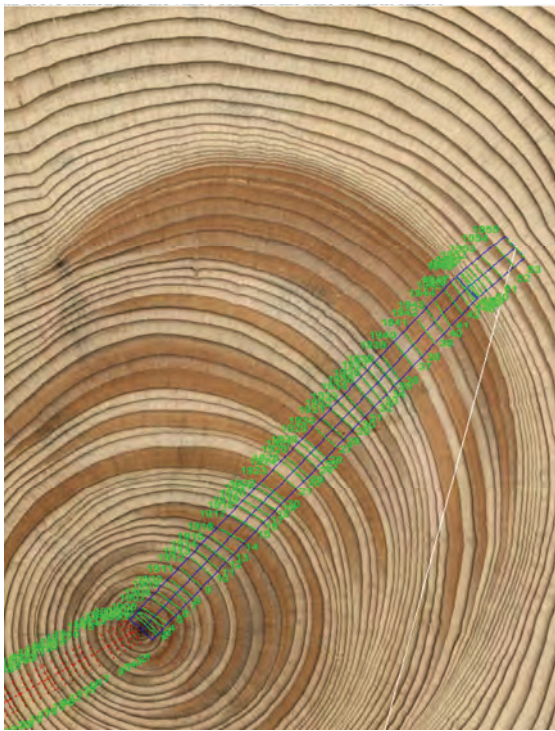


Bits and Chokers

TREE RINGS HELP DATE BEGINNING OF GLOBAL WARMING

While we've been breaking records for heat lately, tree rings are nature's archives for understanding long-term baselines. In article for the online journal "The Conversation," Alexandre Pace, a PhD candidate at Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois, describes gathering data for a model based on the time period for which there is both recorded climate data and tree-ring widths. That model can then be applied to the rings that formed before climate records began in order to reconstruct past conditions.

The challenge has been to find forests with both strong climate-growth relationships and trees over a century old — substantially older than the length of recorded climate data. Clear-cutting ruled out southeastern Canada. But Pace did find a rare old-growth cedar stand in a valley in the Appalachian Mountains of Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula.



Despite their relatively small DBH, cedars there are more than 500 years old. He reports that trees in this closed-canopy forest grow very slowly - especially during years where the winter snow remained on the ground late into the spring. Late snow pack shortens the growing season meaning thinner tree rings that year.

After sampling hundreds of trees in the valley and on the slopes at sites that had never been logged, Pace repeatedly found a strong relationship with snowpack and a related relationship with spring river flow. With these two closely related connections, he was able to reconstruct 195 years of data.

His analysis of this tree ring/snowpack/river relationship — previously undocumented in eastern North America — suggests that the region was affected quite early by modern climate change: "A significant shift occurred in 1937, after which individual years of extremely high river flows and high snow packs declined. Newspaper reports of floods in the greater region matched the years of high flow in our reconstruction as far back

as the year 1872, further validating the results."

Pace's findings suggest implications for wildlife and hydropower. Low water flows threaten Atlantic salmon. Woodland caribou are losing their snowpack refuge while clearcutting of old growth forests favors competitors such as moose and deer. "Lastly," he wrote, "Québec's billion-dollar hydroelectric industry might also benefit from a better understanding of past moisture in the region." A dam complex lies a few hundred kilometers from his study site.

Comparing the past 200 years of these East Coast reconstructions reveals that the complex Atlantic climate system can synchronize, leading large portions of the coast to collectively lock into periods of very wet or very dry conditions.

The insights from the tree rings of these forests also remind us of the values and services provided by old growth forests. Pace's ongoing research includes analyzing dead cedars preserved for almost 800 years at the bottom of lakes. The resulting tree ring chronology will extend his work with trees in the region "helping us further examine the environmental history of our rapidly changing planet."

THE BASEBALL ARMS RACE

You can't blame a guy for trying. In 1932, when St. Louis Browns' Goose Goslin (right) came up with his "zebra bat," his intention was clear – to distract opposing pitchers. But he never got to use it. The umpires ruled it illegal and American League president William Harbridge officially banned it.

But that hasn't stopped Goslin's successors from trying to improve a deceptively simple tool, the baseball bat. Here is a look at other attempts.



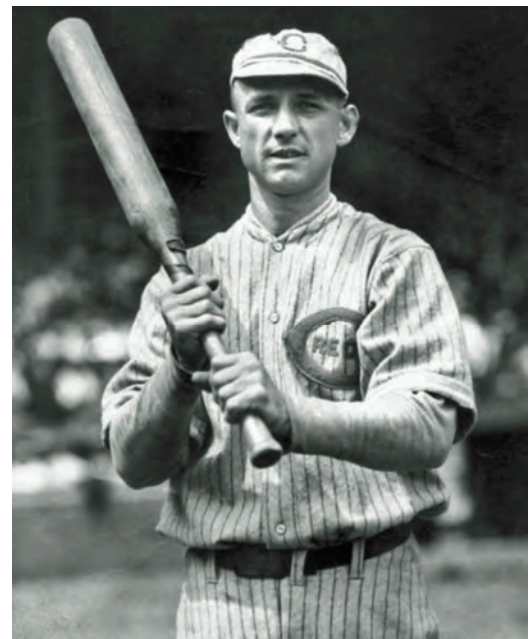
The bat used by Hall of Fame Second Baseman Napoleon "Nap" LaJoie (1874-1959) (left) had an extra knob near the hand grip. Nap believed that curling a finger around it gave him extra control enabling him, as Wee Willie Keeler put it, to "hit them where they ain't."

It was New York Giants manager John McGraw who suggested his 5'8" Second Baseman Heinie Groh (1889-1998) (right) try a heavier bat than usual. Groh played from 1912 to 1927 and used the

heavier bat to develop special skill as a bunter.

Like Nap, current Los Angeles Dodger Mookie Betts (below) also believes in redesigning the bat. His Axe bat has a slanted asymmetrical handle resembling an axe handle, hence its name. Betts believes this design is more ergonomic than the standard hand grip and gives him more hitting speed and strength.

Going in another direction, the Mets' Jeff McNeil uses a bat without a knob. The so-called "No Knob" widens gradually through the stem. McNeil believes this design gives him more control than the standard bat design. He has been quoted as



saying, "It just feels lighter because it's so balanced. The weight's throughout the bat. It's not all in the barrel."

While each of these players has a favorite, all their designs rely on the unique malleability and strength of a miracle raw material: wood. So batter up!





1133 Litchfield Road
Norfolk, CT
06058

**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:
1133 Litchfield Road
Norfolk, CT
06058**

860-948-0432

info@timproct.org

**Articles, ideas, pictures
you'd like to see?**

hallie.metzger@gmail.com

Celebrating Agriculture

Saturday, September 20th, 2025, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Brooklyn Fairgrounds, 15 Fairground Road, Brooklyn, CT 06234

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.