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

FALL 2025

CONNECTICUT

PROFESSIONAL TIMBER PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

The Cutting Edge

Inside This Issue

Cover photo courtesy of Tyler Anderson

Cover art courtesy of 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

I know this cover photo is a departure from the ordinary but then scholarship winner Tyler Anderson is a departure from the ordinary. In our industry we have to deal with all kinds of challenges. Not the least is keeping critical machinery -"iron" - up and running. So you'll appreciate what Tyler accomplished for this capstone high school project: restoring a 1997 Ford F350. Learn more about him and scholarship winner Lucy St. Germain on PP 6 to 9.

Save the Date!

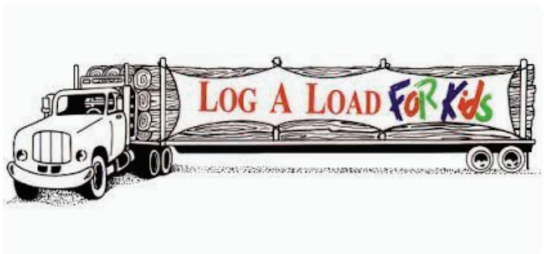
Logging and Your Health
Working with Wetland Agencies
Avenza for Forestry

8-4, Friday, October 31st, 2025
Sessions Woods, Burlington, CT

Mitzi Sachett - New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH)&
New York Center for Occupational Health and Safety (NEC)
Nick Zito - CT DEEP- Forestry Division
David Beers - CT DEEP- Forestry Division

CEUs available. See website for information.
Free for members, $30 for non-members lunch included
Pre-registration required, Register on timproct.org

We are gearing up now for our annual Log A Load drive. You'll find the flyer insert in this newsletter.



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.

PLANT SCIENCE DAY

By Kit Serafini

This is a special year for the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), as it marks the 150th anniversary!

The 115th Annual Plant Science Day was quite busy with 1066 people in attendance, including 119 kids. It was held on Wednesday, August 6th, at Lockwood Farm in Hamden, CT. The grounds were packed with informational booths, exhibitors, demonstrations, hands-on activities for both adults and children, walking tours, and lectures.

Joan Nichols and I represented Timpro. I have to say that I had a blast talking to so many wonderful people. I had one woman tell me about her conversion from where 10 years ago she would cry tears of sorrow when she saw a load of logs going down the road, to now where she cries tears of joy. People really enjoyed being able to see and pick up samples of flooring made in Connecticut, donated by Hull Forest Products. Questions that were asked ranged from "what kind of trees grow in Connecticut?" to "where can I find a sawmill?" to asking how the process works to manage their woodlot and where to get started.

A letter (below) about the dangers of tick-borne infections from our Legislative Representative Joan Nichols was published in the September 2025 *The Northern Logger*. She shares here what she does before venturing into the woods:

* I wear lighter clothing, i.e. tan versus darker pants
* I spray boots, socks, and the lower part of my pants with Sawyer's permethrin
* I wash my clothing when I get home.
* If I feel ill and suspect a tick bite, I immediately go for blood work and insist they test for *all* tick-borne diseases.

Plan for the worst and hope for the best!

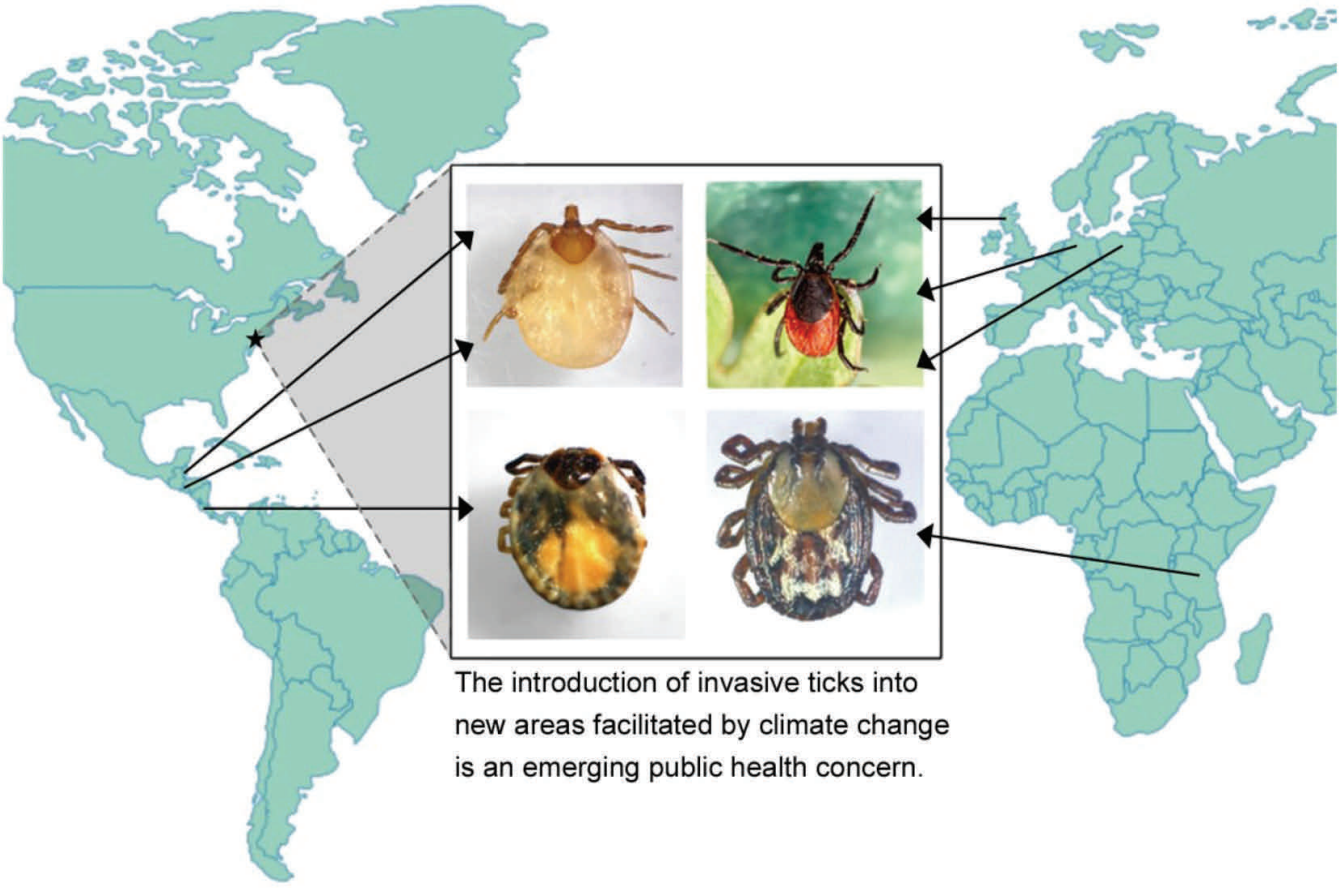
"I appreciated the article in the August 2025 issue of the Northern Logger related to The Other Hazards in the Work Safe section. My comments are relative to the section on Ticks. As a forester who has worked in the epicenter of tick-borne viruses in southeastern Connecticut for close to forty years I would like to share a word of advice to all of you who work in the woods or spend any time in the outdoors. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) administers the Active Tick Surveillance Program as a public health service. In addition to Lyme Disease, the CAES notes an additional 17 other tick-borne pathogens of significant medical concern. It is critically important that anyone who suspects they may have Lyme Disease, or have been bitten by a tick, insist that their health care provider test for all of the tick-borne pathogens. Without thorough and comprehensive blood testing for all the specific pathogens, tick-borne illnesses often go undiagnosed when testing for Lyme shows up negative. You could still be caring Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis, Encephalitis, meningitis, or any of the other tick-borne illnesses. In addition, prescribed antibiotics such as Doxycycline may be effective in treating some of the tick-borne pathogens; however specific pathogens like Babesiosis, require additional medication beyond normally prescribed antibiotics. Left undiagnosed and untreated, many of these tick-borne pathogens can cause long-term health problems, and, in rare cases, fatality. Stay safe out there and check for ticks!

CAES Tick Information: https://portal.ct.gov/caes/tick-office/tick-office/tick-related-information."

What do Asian longhorned ticks look like?

Nymph and adult female, top view.

Nymph and adult female, underside.



The introduction of invasive ticks into new areas facilitated by climate change is an emerging public health concern.

Images this page courtesy of CAES

MEET LUCY ST GERMAIN

Lucy St. Germain, currently at Connecticut State Community College, has always been able to make big decisions. One of the biggest was deciding which of three high schools to attend based on their curricula. In her scholarship essay below, she describes how she decided on Killingly High School. She balances course work with caring for her hens, including Leghorns laying white eggs and Easters laying blue eggs.

"From a young age, I have been very passionate about environmental issues such as pollution, climate change, overfishing/overhunting, deforestation, resource depletion, and other significant problems our Earth is facing. Growing up, my dream job was always to be a marine biologist. I wanted to make a difference in the world by helping the planet.

Over the years, my passion for environmental science has grown. When I was in eighth grade and deciding what high school to go to, I had three options, and one of the schools had an agricultural education program. I learned more about the program courses offered in environmental sciences and related fields like plant science, and I was immediately sold and extremely excited to start the program.

In this program, I was able to take nine agricultural and plant science education courses and five of those courses were focused in environmental and plant science. In these classes, I got to learn all about the causes and consequences of different environmental issues, including some I had not heard of before, which I found interesting.

As I learned more about these issues facing our planet and how they affect us, I grew a stronger desire to pursue environmental science. Studying this topic never got boring to me and I always found it fascinating, as well as very bothersome and concerning, and I wanted to help make our planet better for humans as well as all the species we share it with. After searching for quite some time, I found a way I can do that.

I want to get degrees in biology and environmental science so I can make our planet a healthier place. I want to use my degrees to either conduct further research on how to help the environment or teach the next generation about the problems our generation is currently experiencing and why it is so important to continue researching and fighting to better our world. I want to make a large contribution to this world and I want to do that by bettering the health of our Earth."

MEET TYLER ANDERSON

Tyler Anderson has been interested in machinery since he was 10. He had hands-on experience with the equipment his father uses in his landscaping business. At Laurelbrook Farm in East Canaan, he has worked on John Deere equipment.

So it's no surprise that his parents gave him a high-end Snap-On toolbox to celebrate his graduation this spring from Housatonic Valley Regional High School. He now has the basics such as ¼ inch sockets as well as 3/8 and ½ plus adjustable and needle-nose pliers, electrical pliers for crimping and stripping wires, hammers, chisels, and power tools. But "The school provides everything I'll need," he said, adding, "It's really cool because you can get discounts on name brands when you're there as a student. Up to ½ off."

Tyler also devotes himself to his community. "I'm 4th generation in my family doing volunteer firefighting. I want to help people and give back to my community." He is a certified Emergency Medical Responder and has been trained in basics such as diabetic and cardiac issues. "I go on ambulance calls – we're 100% volunteers – my first fire call before I was an EMR was when a vehicle hit a storm drain and rolled over. When we get to an accident scene, we size it up, make sure the area is safe, control traffic, and assist the patient."

But mechanics is still his first love. His Capstone project in school was restoring a 1997 Ford F350 which he bought in 2021 for $3800. It hadn't been well maintained but did have a good frame and engine. "I had to figure stuff out on my own. It really deepened my interest in mechanics." He worked over 9 months with guidance from Garry Ovitt, manager at Arnold's Body Shop, who provided technical advice.

At SUNY he will earn an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree. Known as the "John Deere Program," it is offered in only 24 schools nationwide. Tyler explains that, during his two-year program, "I will receive hands-on training by completing a 400-hour internship with a John Deere dealership." Tyler has already secured his sponsor dealer, United Ag and Turf in Canaan, CT. He may then continue to complete a Bachelor's Degree and hopes to return to Connecticut.

Whatever route he takes, Tyler intends to always support and give back to his local community.

This page, Clockwise: Tyler Anderson; Close up of rusted body; Truck before restoration

Opposite page: Truck after restoration.

All photos courtesy of Tyler Anderson


F350
DISCOVERER
STT PRO
COOPER


Gulf
BK-99831

MUSHROOMS INVADE MIDWEST FORESTS

It's too much of a good thing: The USFS is reporting an invasion of exotic mushrooms in Midwest forests. The sources are simple kits for growing edible mushrooms at home or commercial growers.

Particularly popular is the golden oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus citrinopileatus*) in Wisconsin and Michigan. These mushrooms, native to Asian and Russian hardwood forests, are now growing in the wild, Michigan reports, in areas of the Midwest, including Michigan's southern Lower Peninsula.

"Golden oyster mushrooms, known for their bright yellow caps and nutty flavor, are featured on restaurant menus and in cooking videos. The mushrooms became popular among DIY enthusiasts with the introduction of grow kits in the early 2000s. By 2010, they began appearing in U.S. forests," Michigan.gov reported online in August.

Graduate student Aishwarya Veerabahu with the Department of Botany at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said, "No one knows exactly how golden oyster mushrooms escaped into the wild, whether from a grow kit, a commercial mushroom farm, or outdoor logs inoculated with golden oysters – a home-cultivation technique."

She and colleagues sampled fungal communities in forests around Madison, Wisconsin, and found that only half the expected diversity of native fungal species was present in logs colonized by golden oyster mushrooms.

This is a concern, she said, because fungi are sources of revolutionary medicines, including antibiotics like penicillin, cholesterol medication and organ transplant stabilizers. "The value of undiscovered, potentially useful chemicals can be lost when invasive species push others out."

For now, she is warning people who sell golden oysters or kits to grow them to warn buyers that they are invasive and should not be cultivated. And through a collaboration with iNaturalist.org, Michiganders are encouraged to report any sightings of golden oyster mushrooms in the wild.

.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

WOOD STRONGER THAN STEEL?

It reads like science fiction: wood that is stronger than steel. But, in fact, that happens naturally when wood topples into peat bogs or falls into riverbeds. Deprived of oxygen, it gradually darkens, densifies, and mineralizes. So-called "ancient buried wood" resists rot and acquires a marble-like sheen. But this process takes 10 – 20,000 years.

In "Science Advances", Eric Ralls describes how scientists from the University of the Basque Country (EHU), Wuhan University, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences have mimiced these chemical changes in a fraction of the time. BioStrong Wood, a timber strengthened with fungus and heat, achieves a tensile strength that now exceeds common SAE 304 stainless steel while weighing far less.

In ancient buried wood, modest heat and pressure, along with microbial enzymes, partially break down lignin. This allows the remaining molecules to repolymerize into a tighter, hydrophobic network. The Basque-Chinese team accelerated this by:

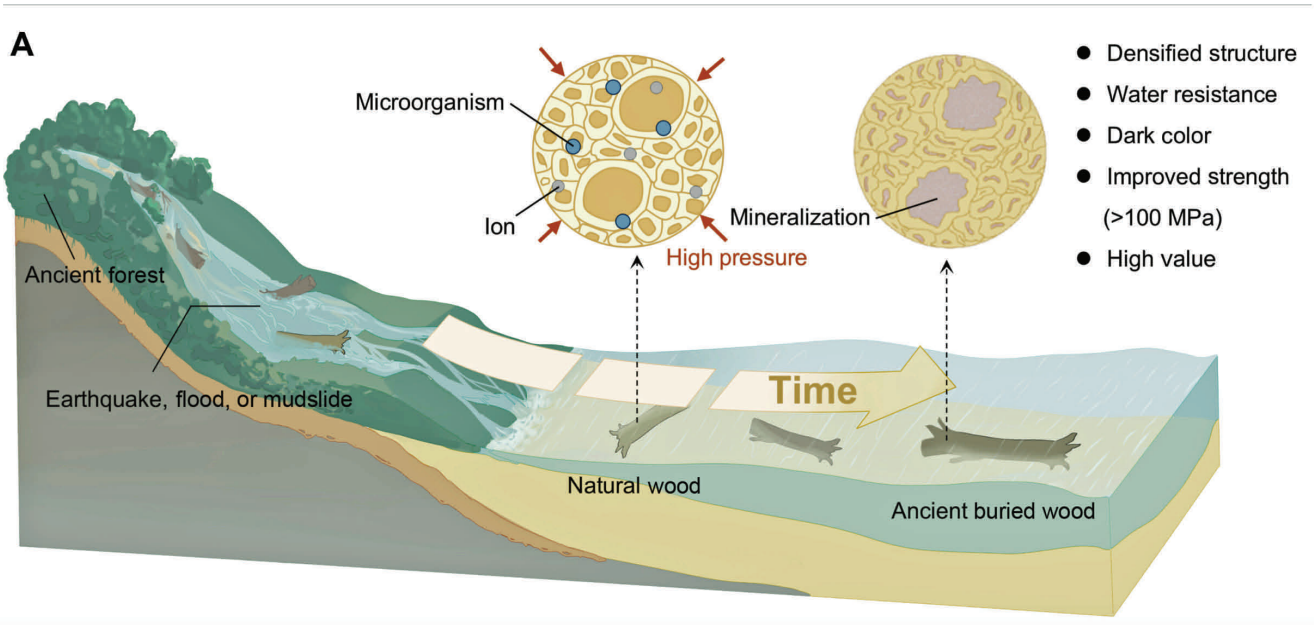
1. Inoculating fast-growing poplar and radiata pine planks with white-rot fungi to loosen the microstructure while leaving the strong cellulose framework largely intact.
2. Using a mild alkaline wash to halt fungal growth and remove low-molecular-weight residues.
3. Compressing stacked boards at temperatures > 356°F causing cell walls to collapse and fragmented lignin pieces to fuse into fresh carbon–carbon bonds, welding the lumber into a dense, horn-like slab.

Mechanical trials show that BioStrong Wood survives tensile stresses above 530 MPa – edging out stainless steel's typical 520 MPa – and absorbs over eleven times more energy before fracturing than raw wood. Flexural tests reveal a threefold jump in bending strength.

Production costs may be about US $0.30/2.2 lbs – dramatically cheaper than aerospace polymers and competitive with plywood. Using standard life-cycle assessment protocols, the authors calculate that each 2.2 lbs of BioStrong Wood sequesters roughly 2.6 lbs of CO_2 net, even after accounting for energy, chemicals, and fungal cultivation. Still to be researched are fire behavior and insect resistance.

Study co-author Professor Erlantz Lizundia sees untapped potential: "Wood is one of the most accessible biological materials, but outside its conventional use, it is barely being explored for high-performance applications… Our results show that it is possible to obtain materials with a very high mechanical performance and which are, in turn, economically viable and offer carbon capture capabilities."

https://www.earth.com/news/wood-thats-stronger-than-steel-a-greener-path-for-engineering/



CONNECTICUT
PROFESSIONAL TIMBER PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

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

SAVE THE DATE
Friday, Oct. 31, 2025, 8-4
Sessions Woods, Burlington, CT
CEUs will be available

Register at timproct.org

LOG A LOAD Flyer enclosed

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.