

CONNECTICUT



PROFESSIONAL TIMBER
PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

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

WINTER
2025

The Cutting Edge



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Cover Photo: Kyle Joray
Cover Art: Deborah Roach

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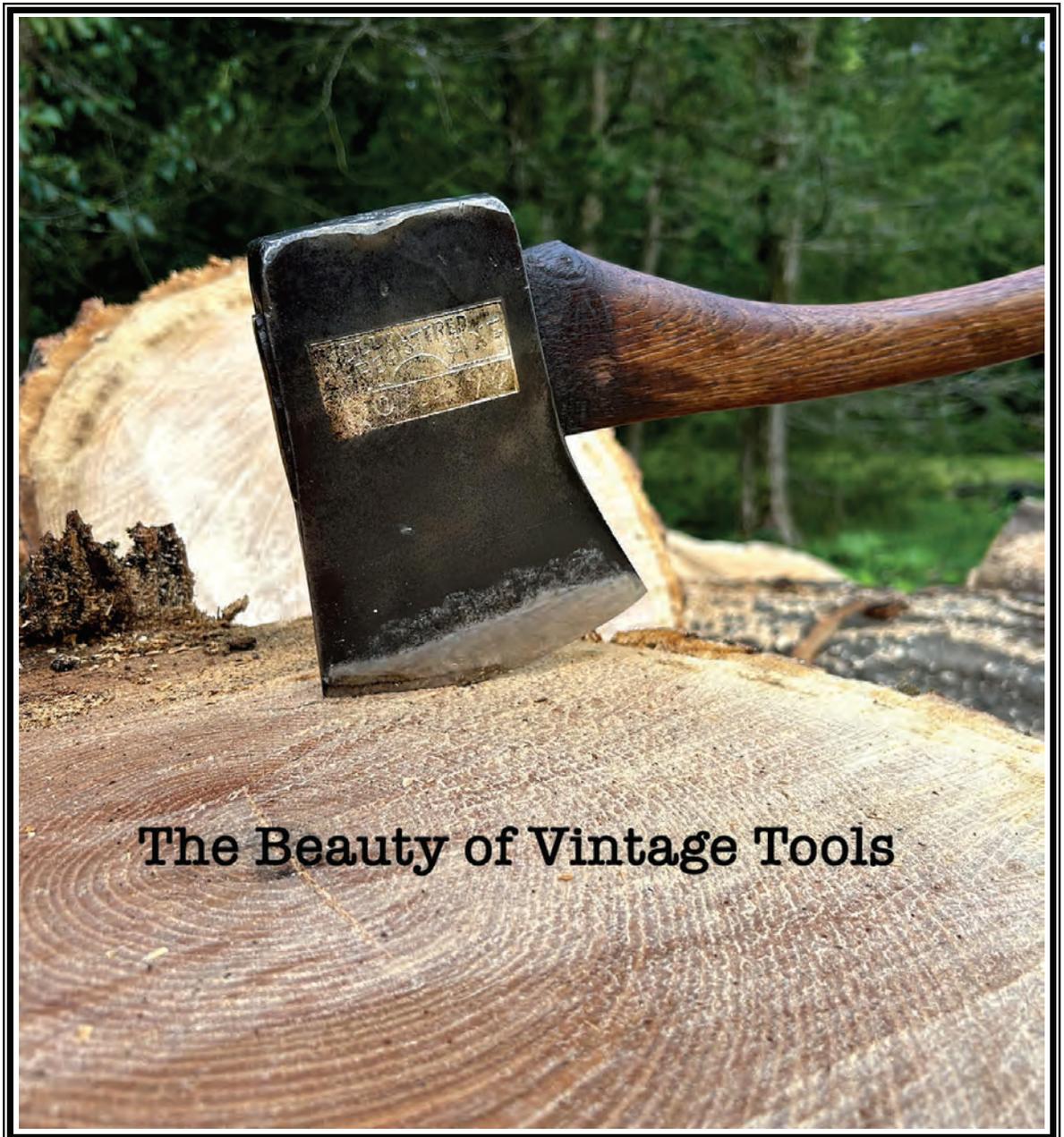
Douglas Moore

Joan Nichols

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Secretary: Kit Serafini

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The Beauty of Vintage Tools

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

WELCOMING THE OLD *AND* THE NEW

The cover picture is an apt metaphor for Timpro as we enter a new year: The vintage axe represents a world of logging's past while its owner Kyle Joray represents the world of logging's future. Read all about Joray, our youngest member, on p. 6. See some of his vintage and antique axes on p.10. Related stories in this end-of-year issue highlight our efforts to encourage more young men and women to consider a career in environmental areas, including logging and forestry.

PBS HIGHLIGHTS WORK OF SAWYER DOUG MOORE



Fifth-generation Sawyer Doug Moore was featured recently on a Connecticut Public Radio and video mini-doc. "Sawdust is in His Blood" highlighted how Doug, the youngest son of Donald Moore's five children, recently became the owner of the family business, Moore's Sawmill, in Bloomfield after his father died in November 2024. Here is the transcript. A link to the interview is available on our website: timproct.org

"Sawdust has kind of been in my blood my entire life," Doug said.

The Moore family has been sawing logs in the area since the late 1800s. Doug spent his childhood at the mill — first just playing around, but then his dad put him to

work.

And he helped his dad by doing little jobs.

As he grew, he learned the ins and outs of running the saw — more importantly, he learned how to judge logs and to make the most of each log that passes through the mill.

The work is long and hard, especially as it is now a one-man job.

"I love what I do," he said. "I take great pride and satisfaction in being able to do what I do."

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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATES

ALC LOGGERS CONFERENCE:

Henry Gundlach and Joan Nichols attended the American Loggers Council's (ALC) Annual Meeting September 17th through the 19th, in Lafayette, Louisiana. Henry stated that the event was well attended, but not as many attendees and political speakers as last year's meeting. There was, however, one member from the US Forest Service there. On Thursday, they toured an OSB plant owned by Roy O. Martin III, who supports logging. The plant goes through 150 loads a day, with the product going to Texas. They also toured an active logging job on a plantation of 103 acres of loblolly pine that is being clear-cut. Henry noted that the loblolly pine is being sold as yellow pine and that there is no hand cutting being done on the job. They need 20 loads a day to make it work financially. They also visited a US Forest Service site that is cut every 50 years, versus the normal 35 years. Henry said that Thursday night was the Log A Load for Kids auction that raised \$57,000.00, which was less than the previous year.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Joan Nichols reported that during the 2025 legislative session Special Act 25-12 AN ACT CONCERNING RIPARIAN AREAS was signed by Governor Lamont. The Act's purpose is to establish a working group within the legislative branch to identify where and how protection of vegetated riparian buffers in the state can be incorporated into statutes and regulations in order to improve the health of and protect the resources of the state's watercourses consistent with private property rights, to respond to the projected impacts on water-

courses listed in the recommendations of the Governor's Council on Climate Change and to meet the goals for the health of Long Island Sound. The working group has been meeting bi-monthly with the goal of generating a report and possible recommendations no later than January 15, 2026. The originally proposed HB 7174 would have restricted cutting of native vegetation within 100 feet of a wetland or watercourse and other changes to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA). The working group represents concerned stakeholders from a variety of interests impacted by any proposed changes to regulations or legislation involving riparian areas. Nichols holds the seat for a Certified Forester representing the interests and concerns of forestry. Anyone interested in following the proceedings of the working group can find agendas, membership, and resources on the [Vegetated Riparian Buffers Working Group](#) webpage.

NEW MEMBERS:

In addition to Kyle Joray, Timpro welcomes Alex Archambault. His business is the Northwood Tree Service, LLC, in Woodbury, CT. The services he offers are forestry/land management, land clearing, residential tree removal, and custom sawing. He has a supervising forest products harvester and arborist license.



On September 29, Henry Gundlach competed in the Saco Valley Fryeburg Fair Woodsmen's Day in Fryeburg, Maine.

A WARM TIMPRO WELCOME TO KIT SERAFINI

Kit Serafini stepped up for TIMPRO at a time of need and it looks now as if she is staying. The moment came when former Secretary Gerald (Jerry) Bellows retired. Vice-President Pro Tem Henry Gundlach asked Kit to take over Jerry's work. (Henry had some leverage since he's Kit's father!)

Kit agreed although her work as a Stop & Shop produce manager didn't give her much background experience. Now she looks back at what she's learned and notes, "When I started, I didn't know what BCC meant in emails. S&S had its own email system that wasn't like general email systems. So I googled and watched YouTube videos on secretarial duties and how to take minutes."

However, she said, "Keeping track of membership is like invoice work that I did at S&S. I didn't know the names or most Timpro members, but I had met some while working with my dad through the years and even attending various functions and events as a teenager."

Then Kit took over the Treasurer duties when Trish Clark stepped down: "One advantage for the Treasurer's work is that as manager I had to account for the produce department's finances. But S&S, again, has its own system. I had never done a spread sheet!"



Promoting a Log A Load Raffle At Celebrating Ag Day with Peter Hart



The change in jobs came at a good time for Kit. She had left S&S during Covid. "I was doing 12-hour days. I had 3 children at home." Now she has time for reading and her children's activities as well as cooking and gardening - mostly vegetables. "I made so much plum jam last year I didn't need to make any this year," she said. She also dehydrates her tomatoes and peppers and green beans to use during the winter and does some freezing. She has even started buying a whole steer. Plus, her son hunts and hopes to contribute some venison this year.

In addition to having more control over her day, she's able to work from home. But she's also setting up a room in her dad's home for an office. She's moved TIMPRO documents there in preparation for a massive archiving project: "Payments are stored there. There are lots of files. For instance, I'm organizing the minutes in files by month and creating where needed electronic backups for many documents."

Bringing Kit on board has worked out well for Timpro and for Kit as well. "I like what I'm doing, I'm learning new things. But I won't continue indefinitely." She added, "It would be nice if someone took over as Treasurer."

Her final comment: "I wish more of our members could spend at least 2 hours a year meeting with kids at schools and talking about their work. Kids do not know that there are careers in the forest products industry. So many adults in their 30s are turning towards more rewarding careers and even homesteading. They want and need to be outside doing physical, meaningful work."

"Reaching kids now is important. It's the future of our industry."

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Kit Serafini reports two upcoming Career Fairs - April 8th, 2026, for Glastonbury High School, and February 27th, 2026, for E.O. Smith. She will reach out to schools Timpro did not attend last year. The Board discussed how to further engage with schools. This includes looking into pairing up with NELA on educational outreach and locating someone who would be willing to demonstrate the simulator at high schools. Anyone interested in attending outreach events, contact Kit at secretary@timproct.org.



Joan Nichols (below left) with Connecticut College students. She and Henry Gundlach (below) with University of New Haven students at the Racebrook Tract in Orange.



Photos this page: Left, Connecticut College instructor Jennifer Pagach Above, University of New Haven Assistant Professor Sharon Kahara

Opposite page: Above, Hallie Metzger

MEET KYLE JORAY, OUR YOUNGEST MEMBER

Hallie Metzger



There was a brief silence when I asked Kyle, our youngest Timpro member, how he chose to go into forestry. Then he answered, "It chose me."

An early influence was his father who does woodworking. Then came his involvement with Future Farmers of America at Wamogo Regional High School. There, he joined the Timber Team where he competed in axe throwing, crosscut, and other events. In fact, that competition drew him to Paul Smith's College. "Paul Smith's has arguably the best team in the northwest, maybe even in the country," he explained. In fact he is now president of the award-winning team. He is in the center of the team picture below. "My favorite event is the underhand standing on a block, swinging the axe under my feet."

But also influential in his career choice was the involvement of Henry Gundlach whom he met two summers ago when he interned with Jody Bronson at Great Mountain Forest. Now a senior, Kyle is not sure what comes next. He may want to stay local in Connecticut or close to Goshen where he grew up.

Bronson influenced Kyle in another way – getting him involved in an unusual activity. "I collect vintage and

antique axes," he said. "Jody really got me into collecting. It's lots of fun. You find a rusted old one at a sale and clean it up and then research it. It's historically interesting - especially with Connecticut's rich history of axe manufacture. One axe is from Bronson and Townsend Company, active from 1810 to 1822. And Jody Bronson is a relative of the founder! I primarily buy American-made. The oldest one is from the 1930's. I don't really separate vintage from antique."

"They're a cool tool which foresters have used at one point or another to cut firewood. They're even used to mark timber," he reflected.

Photo above courtesy of Kyle Joray

Photo opposite courtesy of Paul Smith's College website

Opposite page: courtesy of Veronica Serafini



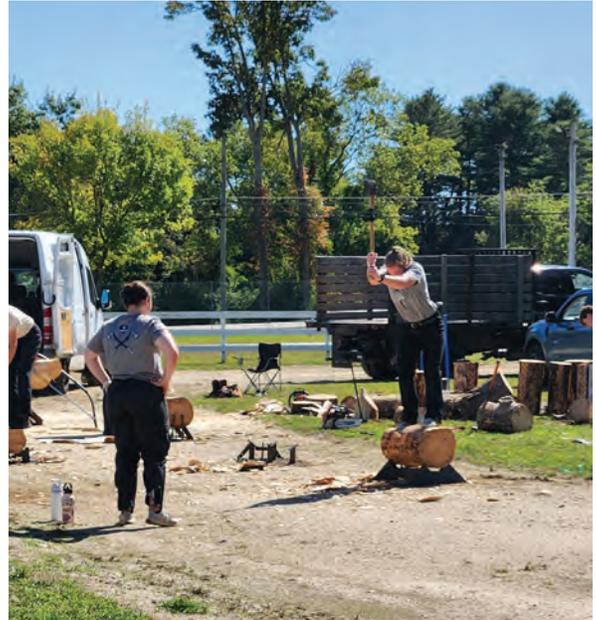
CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE DAY

There was lots of activity when Timpro set up its tent for Celebrating Ag day, September 20, in Brooklyn.

"We were set up in front of UConn's Timber Team, which was doing timber sports demonstrations," reports Kit Serafini. "That proximity proved to be a draw for visitors who strolled over to watch the Timber Team and then visited our display. Mike Hinman and Peter Hart were on hand to talk to people and explain our exhibit."

Kit (below, center in black t-shirt), Hart, and Hinman pitched in promoting our Log A Load drive. The tickets were \$5.00 each/3 for \$10.00/8 for \$20.00. Peter Hart noted that one man purchased \$125worth and won 7 items.

"We raised \$525.00 through donations from drawing tickets and straight-up donations. There were 20 items up for the 12:30 drawing; they were fishing lures, a John Deere workshop stool, a John Deere hat, funnel, work gloves, folding saw, 2 Bark Bowls, 2 cutting boards, a quart of CT maple syrup, 4 gallons of bar and chain oil, a gift basket (containing a mixing bowl, whisk, spatula, CT roasted Coffee, 2 quarts of CT maple syrup and pancake mix), a hummingbird feeder with hummingbird food, an axe and earmuffs/ear protection," she said.



OCTOBER 31 TIMPRO PROGRAM A SUCCESS

Kit Serafini



Timpro recently hosted an in-person program – “Logging and Your Health, Working with Wetlands Agencies & Avenza for Forestry”, on Friday, October 31, 2025, at Sessions Woods in Burlington. Forty seven people attended the full-day event. After registration, the day kicked off with a presentation from Mitzi Sackett (below) from the Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety on the first part of a three-class curriculum on preventative approaches to the top three health-related topics faced by loggers in Maine. Mitzi discussed Lesson One, which covered cardiovascular risks associated with Hypertension: Why it is important to know your blood pressure numbers, what the risks are, and practical ways geared towards the logging lifestyle of reducing your risk factors. Mitzi also encouraged the class to share their stories and what may be working for them.

Participants enjoyed lunch while Timpro’s Vice-President Pro Tem, Henry Gundlach, gave a few words on Timpro’s current projects and some that are in the works, followed by a viewing of the ALC’s public relations videos.

Continuing through lunch, the next speaker was Nick Zito (left) from CT DEEP, with a “how to” presentation on working with municipal Inland Wetlands Agency determinations related to forest practices. Nick encouraged those in attendance to participate in an open discus-

sion on navigating the process, including new regulations and difficulties that have been presented to foresters by wetland agencies and forest practitioners.

After a brief break, the day ended with a hands-on mapping exercise using the Avenza app presented by Dave Beers, CT DEEP Service Forester. Dave explained the advantages of using the Avenza app for forestry and logging. Participants learned how to download maps to the app, mark positions, plot navigation routes, and more. Following this was an outdoor exercise where participants demonstrated what they learned by plotting a navigation route around the parking lot.





Dave Beers started in the classroom and then took participants out in the field to practice using Avenza. The exercise required intense concentration but also generated amusement.



Photos courtesy of Kit Serafini



Bits and Chokers



A GALLERY OF VINTAGE AND ANTIQUE AXES

This Kelly Registered Axe, circa 1930s, was made by the Kelly Axe and Tool Company operating in West Virginia, Indiana, and Kentucky said Kyle Joray: "They were called Registered Axes because when someone bought a new one at the hardware store, the store would engrave a number on the axe that registered you as the owner. But the records were never kept well so you can't look up the numbers anymore to see where they came from. A good book about these tools is *American Axe: The Tool That Shaped a Continent* by Paul Smith's College Professor Brett McLeod."



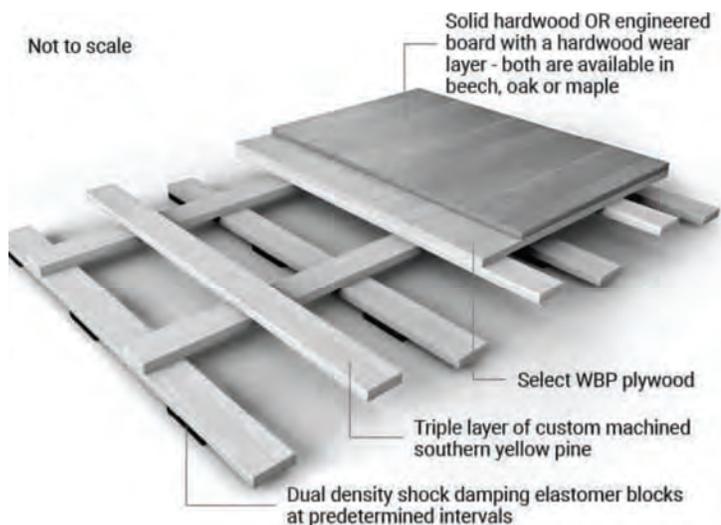
This 1947 Sager Chemical cruise axe (above), made by the Warren Axe & Tool Co in Warren, PA, was smaller and lighter than typical double bits and was meant to be



Kyle swinging an axe - not from his collection - in a Paul Smith's College Timber Team competition.

All photos courtesy of Kyle Joray.

WHEN THE FLOOR BECOMES AN INSTRUMENT



Whether you dance or not, whether you play basketball or not, you know when you're on a "sprung" floor.

The term refers to the give or bounce a sprung floor provides. That give comes from a system of cross layered supports undergirding the hardwood floor. If the floor didn't give a bit under a dancer's or athlete's feet, the result would be a hard jolt at each step, lots of stress on muscles and joints, and, ultimately, injuries.

The best sprung floors are very expensive to manufacture, lay down, and maintain.

But in addition to protecting feet and assuring safety as people leap and spin, a good sprung floor can make music.

To understand how it does this, check out a video of someone tap dancing but close your eyes. Listen instead to sounds made by the flaps, taps, slaps, slides, and other distinctive steps.

A sprung floor is more than an instrument. It is a symphony.



A shuffle step requires swinging one's leg back and then swinging it forward to connect with the floor. The result is a soft scraping sound.

Check out videos on our website timproct.org.

In a heel-ball step below, the dancer first strikes his or her toes on the floor lifting forward after impact thus harnessing the energy to bring the heel down. Experienced tap dancers can do this so fast, you can't see the moves but you can hear them.





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

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM
TIMPRO!**

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.