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CONNECTICUT PROFESSIONAL TIMBER PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

The Cutting Edge

Inside This Issue

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Cover Photo Courtesy Cornell University
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

The 2026-2027 Timpro Board Left to right: Douglas Moore, Peter Hart, Joan Nichols, Henry Gundlach, Robert Carrington, Austin Harmon, and Stanley Burr. Mike Hinman phoned into the meeting. Sam Burr was absent. Photo courtesy of Kit Serafini.

THANK YOU TO OUR LOG-A-LOAD DONORS. WITH YOUR HELP WE RAISED $3735.00

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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'S SUBMISSION
FOR THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT 5-YEAR REVIEW
OF GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Accomplishments

Name: Henry Gundlach – Vice- President

Organization: Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Associations (Timpro)

Email: info@timproct.org

Description of Accomplishment: The Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association recognized a need to educate the general public, and in particular, youth and young adults, about forestry, the forest products industry, and careers in natural resources. As a society, Connecticut residents have become increasingly removed from working lands and fundamental understandings of forestry, our natural resources, and those professionals who manage and steward working forestland.

The Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association initiated an outreach program to educate primary, secondary, high school, and college students about forestry, the logging industry, and careers in natural resources. Through a dedicated group of volunteers, Timpro members have attended six high school career fairs and presented to seven individual natural resources classes.

Timpro members have taken the opportunity to participate in statewide and regional events such as the 100th Anniversary of Peoples State Forest, Ag Day at the Capitol, Connecticut Envirothon, UConn Extension Forestry Competition, Plant Science Day, and the Shelterwood Project hosted by the Northeastern Loggers Association at their annual equipment expo held in Bangor, Maine, and Essex Junction, Vermont.

Timpro also offers scholarships for high school seniors who are pursuing a career in the field of natural resources.

Relevant National Priorities: Conserve and manage working forest landscapes
Enhance public benefits from trees and forests

Completion Date: Ongoing

Partners Involved: Primary and secondary education, public high schools, CT Agri-science Centers, colleges, Northeastern Loggers Association

Website: www.timproct.org

HOPE FOR DEFEATING THE EMERALD ASH BORER?

Collaborating with The Nature Conservancy's Trees in Peril program, Cornell University recently planted black ash saplings bred for possible resistance to the Emerald Ash Borer.

As reported by Krishna Ramanujan in the November 2025 Cornell Chronicle, the key to the possible success of the program was finding that even infested stands contained a few healthy trees that survived due to some natural resistance. Known now as "lingering ash," several were found in the natural areas of the Cornell Botanic Gardens and moved for propagation studies.

"Our goal is to propagate and conserve trees from 50 to 60 unique parents of green, white and black ash species, and we are thrilled that our first cohort of lingering ash have been planted out in their conservation banks," said Todd Bittner, director of natural areas for the Cornell Botanic Gardens.

The Trees in Peril program includes The Nature Conservancy, the USDA Forest Service, experts from academia, research organizations and other partners, who are collaborating to monitor, research, and breed pest-resistant American beech, Eastern hemlock, and black, white, and green ash.

Cornell is working closely with one of the program partners, the Ecological Research Institute, to identify lingering ash and collect cuttings from trees in New York's Hudson Valley. Trees in Peril has plans for additional propagation centers in New York and the northeast region.

In the meantime, Cornell Botanic Gardens staff will propagate additional resistant trees, maintain the new plantings, and protect them from emerald ash borers and other threats. A total of 139 grafted trees, now between 2 and 7 feet tall, have been planted into three conservation banks, one for each species. The planted saplings were propagated from 26 lingering ash 'parents,' each of which has unique genetics for resistance.

Below: Keith Miller, an arborist, and Missy Bidwell, a greenhouse supervisor, Cornell Botanic Gardens, plant two-year old lingering black ash at the Gardens' conservation bank site. Photo courtesy Sreang Hok, Cornell University

As these planted trees mature, Botanic Gardens staff will use cuttings to propagate more individuals that can then be used for further-out plantings and resistance testing, Bittner said. Cornell breeders hope the plantings will be ready for new scion cuttings in two to four years, with resistance testing of these cloned lingering ash within the decade, once the tress are big enough.

Trees need to be at least 6-8 inches in diameter for emerald ash borers to lay their eggs into the tree and burrow in to feed on the cambium, the living tissue just under the tree's bark.

Researchers have found that most resistant trees will compartmentalize the larvae while they are in earlier life stages. "Some lingering ash are able to wall off the larvae faster than they can tunnel through, and once they are walled off, they are stuck and they starve to death, because they can't move backwards," Bittner said.

Researchers also suspect a second mechanism for resistance, where the lack of certain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) make the trees chemically invisible to emerald ash borers, so the insects can't locate them for egg laying. There is strong evidence that VOCs are involved with resistance, but more study is needed.

The Ecological Research Institute has started a Monitoring and Managing Ash program, with a call for citizen scientists to help identify lingering ash, especially green and black ash that are much less common in New York state. Black ash has cultural importance to Indigenous communities, such as the Haudenosaunee in New York and Canada, who use it for ceremony, weaving, and basket-making.

"We are looking forward to the day where ash are returned to our forests, strengthening the health of our ecosystems and the communities that depend on them," Bittner said.

AND.....

Adrian Villellas reported in Earth.com that scientists in Minnesota have identified native fungi that can rapidly kill the invasive beetles within days(photo above right). The research led by Colin Peters, a graduate researcher in plant pathology at the University of Minnesota, tested several strains: These strains, identified in wood scarred by emerald ash borer tunneling, belonged to five genera, including *Beauveria, Purpureocillium, Metarhizium, Clonostachys,* and *Samsoniella*. The beetles were infected by being lured through traps contaminated by fungi. Exiting the traps, the beetles carried the deadly fungi with them. Ten Minnesota strains managed to infect emerald ash borers, but four cut survival times in both years of tests, including two strains of *Beauveria pseudobassiana* and *Beauveria bassiana*, one *Metarhizium* strain, and one *Purpureocillium* strain, each lethal after limited contact. The next step is testing to make sure beneficial insects are not harmed and to develop ways to widely disseminate the fungus in forests. If successful, fungal control could be part of integrated pest management.

Bits and Chokers

WORKING IN THE WINTER WOODS

The recent bitter cold and snow made a logging job more difficult than usual but working in the cold is nothing unusual for Henry and his son Justin Gundlach. "I've got a great insulated container for water that stays warm all day," said Henry. "We don't stop when we're working. It's hard to start working again." They harvested 6000 Board Feet of pine and hardwoods on a site in Barkhamsted.

"Most of the wood will go to Canada, but some to New York. In southern new England," Henry added. "if we don't have a Canadian market, we don't have one, period." Some low-grade pine will go to Maine but trucking costs are high."

Want to stay warm? Advised Henry, "Keep moving. My father always said, 'There's heat, and work!' "

The Cutting Edge welcomes stories and pictures about your work.

Email Hallie Metzger at RebekahshillLLC@gmail.com.

Photos courtesy of Henry Gundlach

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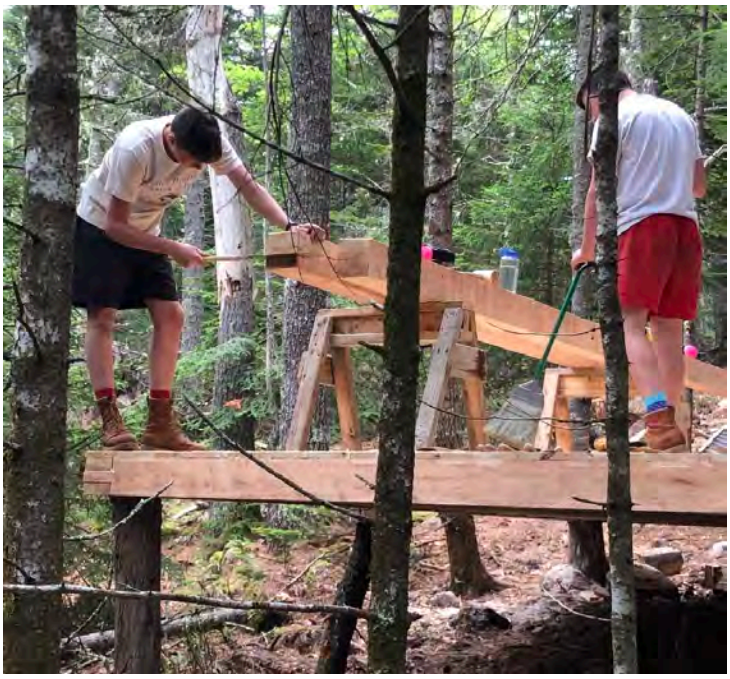
THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

HENRY DAVID THOREAU: DID HE OR DIDN'T HE?



It's heresy but Jasper and Satchel Sieniewicz can't believe it was a one-man job. They can't believe Henry David Thoreau really built his Concord, Mass cabin all by himself (except, he wrote in "Walden," for raising the frame).

Their father Tom raised them on "Walden" reported Dorie Chevlen (*Feb. 3, 2026 The New York Times*). They were inspired by how Thoreau used hand tools to form beams from fallen timber and upcycled wood from a railroad worker's shanty.

"But after building a full-scale replica of Thoreau's cabin in the woods behind their family's vacation home in Maine, the brothers don't buy it," Chevlen wrote. Even using a sawmill and power tools, it took them three summers of labor, on and off between school and work beginning the first summer of the pandemic, plus the help of their father, who wrote up the experience for The Thoreau Society Bulletin, Winter 2021. Yet Thoreau claimed it took him all of three months.

"There is no way that he did it by himself in the time period that he said it was done," said Jasper.

Building replica cabins really took off during the pandemic, helped by The Thoreau Society sale of blueprints for the 10-by-15 foot cabin. There are even special workshops teaching the authentic skills needed to build a replica. Axe work alone gets a full week!

But maybe the truth doesn't matter. Even in 1845, an era with so few distractions compared to ours, Thoreau felt the need for a simpler life. For fans of Thoreau, that individualism is the appeal, said Luke Barnett, whose Sam Beauford Woodworking Institute offers a Walden cabin training series: It's "the whole idea of leaving society behind and rebelling against industrialization and being self-reliant with hand tools."

Above left: Jasper and Satchel at work in the woods. Right: Almost finished!

Photos courtesy The Thoreau Society Winter 2021 Bulletin.

More links will be available on our website

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?

rebekahshillLLC@gmail.com

May 18-21, American Loggers Council DC Fly-In Washington, DC

August 14-16, "Teach the Teachers Retreat," NWCD and UConn, Great Mountain Forest, Norfolk

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.