



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

FALL 2019

ISSUE 36

The Cutting Edge



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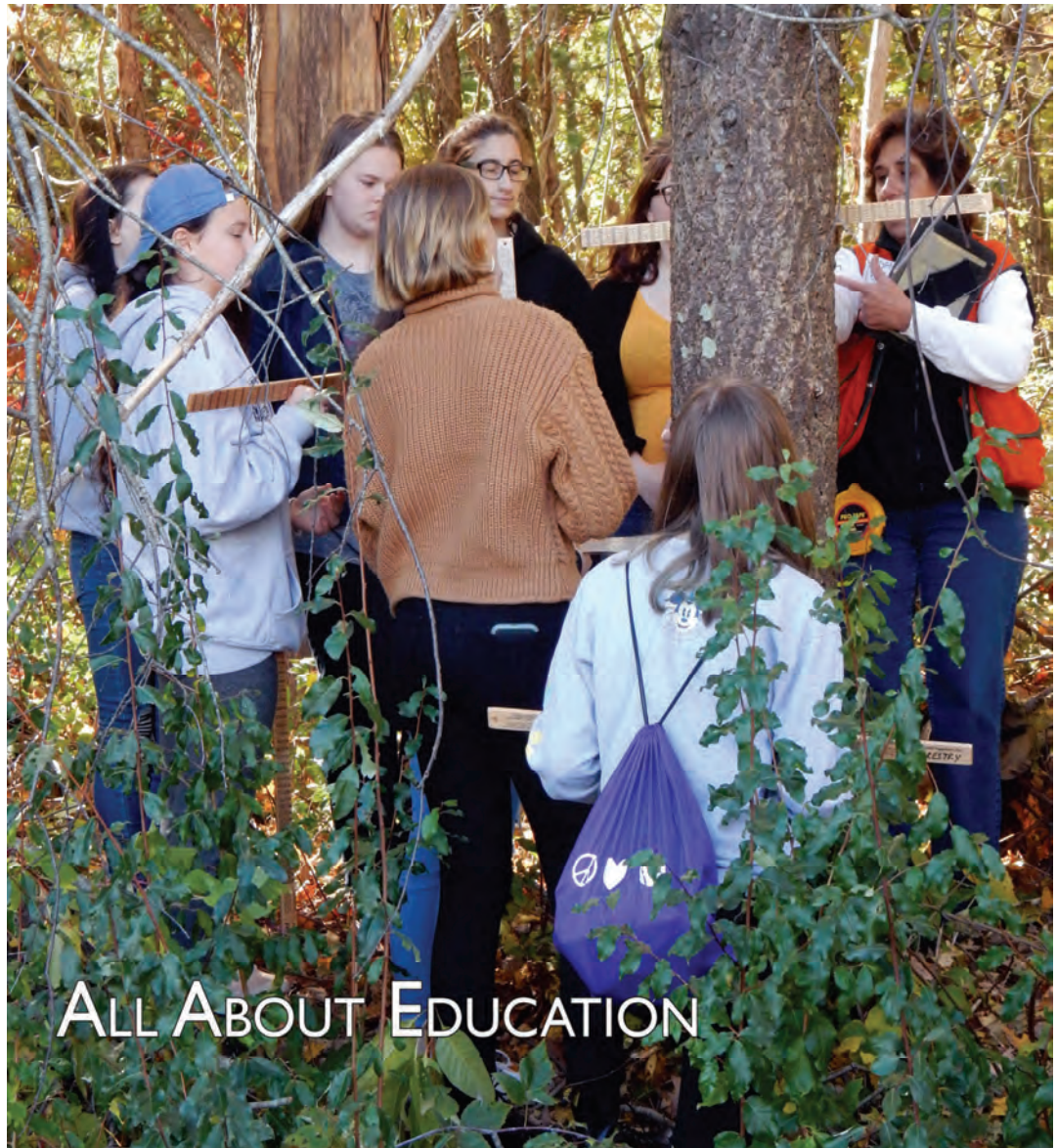
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ALL ABOUT EDUCATION

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 its members.

ALL ABOUT EDUCATION

In addition to everything we do when we're out in the woods, we TIMPRO members find time to engage in all kinds of educational activities:

- ◆ We talk to legislators about forestry issues.
- ◆ We volunteer to train students for Envirothon competitions.
- ◆ We award scholarships to graduating high school students who will continue to careers in natural resource management.
- ◆ We offer educational opportunities for our members such as field trips to special sites and seminars on important topics. Many of these sessions offer CEU credits and are open to members and non-members alike.
- ◆ We participate in Connecticut Agriculture Day, Plant Science Day, and other public gatherings where we can share our information and objectives.
- ◆ And don't forget the Game of Logging competition which helps us demonstrate how to improve the safety of our work as Forest Practitioners.

This issue is devoted to all of these educational efforts. The next issue will be devoted to our growing support for Log A Load which raises funds for the Children's Miracle Hospital Network. We are proud of the special relationship we have forged with the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Contact me for more information about how you can to volunteer,
Hallie Metzger, Editor, Hallie.metzger@gmail.com

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.

TIMPRO BOARD MEMBERS MEET WITH COMMISSIONER DYKES

On October 18, Joan Nichols, Brennan Sheahan, and Henry Gundlach (L to R) met with CT-DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes in Hartford to lay out concerns regarding the state's timber resources.

Their talking points covered the following important topics:

- Connecticut forests cover 56% of the state.
- 73% of the forest cover is in non-industrial private ownership.
- The average age of these forest landowners is increasing meaning a significant amount of forestland will be transferred or sold to new ownership over the next 20 years.
- The Connecticut forest products industry provides over 4,500 jobs.
- Over 10,500 parcels and nearly 450,000 acres is classified as Forest Land under PA 490, Connecticut's current use assessment law for forestland, farmland and open space. It is imperative to maintain the integrity of PA 490 so that forestland is not lost because a landowner is unable to afford the taxes.
- ♦ 70 parcels and nearly 7,000 acres are enrolled in Connecticut's other forestland property tax law, the Ten Mill program.



This forest resource is under persistent attack by invasive insects and diseases. The resulting dead and dying trees rapidly lose their value for sawtimber or higher value forest products. Worse, these dead and dying trees present a costly public safety hazard. Yet there is a limited market for low grade material harvested both in salvage operations and in thinnings to improve overall forest health.

The TIMPRO Board members proposed several solutions to this impasse:

- Include woody biomass needs in Connecticut's renewable energy portfolio. A robust woody biomass market can provide markets for low grade material removed to improve forest health and for dead and dying trees both from forestry operations as well as state and municipal roadside hazardous tree removal.
- Create a favorable regulatory and permitting process for small to mid-size heating facilities powered by woody biomass.
- Develop an affordable technical training program in partnership with UConn, the community college system or technical colleges for young professionals interested in entering the logging profession. The average age of the logging workforce is now in the late 50s.

Photo courtesy of the CT DEEP

TIMPRO TOUR OF METROPOLITAN DISTRICT WATERSHED

by Brennan Sheahan

No one was afraid of Friday the 13th although that was the date in September when over 45 licensed forest practitioners gathered for a tour of MDC (Metropolitan District Watershed Commission) properties. The MDC oversees 31,000 acres of managed forestlands.

It was a sun-filled day at 39 Beach Rock Road when we began our tour in Barkhamsted. Phill Royer, MDC Natural Resource Administrator, welcomed us graciously for an overview of the MDC, its mission, and the role that the forests provide in supplying clean drinking water. The MDC, a non-profit municipal corporation, was chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929 to provide potable water and sewerage services on a regional basis. It provides its customers with safe, pure drinking water, environmentally protective wastewater collection and treatment, and other services that benefit the member towns.

The MDC's water supply consists of a surface water supply system of reservoirs that includes the 30.3 billion-gallon Barkhamsted Reservoir and the 9.5 billion-gallon Nepaug Reservoir. When full, these two reservoirs store a volume of water equivalent to 660 days or 22 months of typical water use. Andrew Hubbard, MDC Forester, followed Royer and opened with the importance of the forest and how it fills a crucial role in the hydrologic cycle keeping the water resource pure and clean for drinking purposes. Hubbard said the MDC has been engaged in a forest management program since the 1940s, when professional foresters were



MDC Forester Andrew Hubbard, center, orients the group.

first hired to direct forestry operations. The MDC conducts regeneration harvests employing salvage, shelterwood, and clearcut methods. MDC also manages the impact of deer browse with a number of strategies including hunting and restrictive fencing.

Forestry activities are currently guided by a comprehensive watershed forest management plan. The plan uses an ecosystem approach and provides information about watershed geology, soils, wildlife, biodiversity, and cultural features as well as the overall extent and condition of the timber resources. The plan establishes priorities and guidelines for protecting water quality through activities including: timber harvesting; wildlife management; gravel access road maintenance; and control of disease,

insects, and non-native invasive species.

We made multiple stops during the day throughout the Barkhamsted and Nepaug Reservoir systems and looked at different types of forest management prescriptions and the benefits/results of these timber harvests.

We owe a special thanks to Legeyt Bus Service of Pleasantville, CT. The owner, Jean Seymour, was our bus driver and she navigated this complicated off-road tour with pure precision and professionalism. There were a few white-knuckle moments as the school bus dropped down a 12% grade staring into a wall of trees. Jean handled this like a champ. We enjoyed our lunch for a secluded overlook at the Nepaug Reservoir. I think everyone enjoyed this moment and the warm sunshine. Then CT Wildlife Biologist Michael Gregonis shared his 20 plus years of insight into forest management and its benefits for CT's wildlife.

It was a great day and we are very thankful for the MDC staff's willingness to show us their properties and the forest management work that they do. A big thank you to both Scott Rogers and Robert Carlson, both from the MDC, for working so hard to make this day successful. And another thank you to Legeyt Bus for donating their time/service spent with TIMPRO on this day – and proving superstitions can be wrong!



A splendid lookout at Nepaug for lunch.

All photos courtesy of Brennan Sheahan

TIMPRO AT PLANT SCIENCE DAY



On August 7, TIMPRO Board Mike Hinman and his wife Deb volunteered to represent us at Plant Science Day, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) event showcasing its research and accomplishments, at Lockwood Farm in Hamden. Of particular importance was Dr. Scott C. Williams' presentation, "The Links Between Forest and Public Health." Dr. Williams noted that Connecticut is the 4th most densely populated state as well as the 20th most heavily forested. That makes everyone in the state a forest dweller. Among the advantages of this extensive forest are cleaner air and water, aesthetics, and outdoor recreation. But the significant public health disadvantages insects and tick-borne infections and wildlife encounters. To access Dr. Williams' report, search CAES 2019 Plant Science Day.

Meet our 2019 TIMPRO Scholarship winners Adam Luchon and Alyssa Hotchkiss. Interestingly, although they have come to environmental concerns from different places, they share a love of fishing. But even here their interests diverge. Read on to find out how and why.



Adam Luchon (Left) says of forestry, "Ever since I started learning about forestry in my Ag-Ed class, I was hooked." But his interest goes back even further: "Ever since I was little I've loved to be outside. We have a goat pasture with two goats now. We also have chickens, six geese, and a koi pond."

At Edwin O. Smith High School, faculty member Andrew Zadora guided Adam in the study of forest management practices, timber stand improvement, and multiple-use forest management. Adam will now go on to work toward a degree in forestry at University of Maine, Orono.

Outside of the classroom, Adam excelled at Career Development Events competing right up to the national level.

"I've been working toward it for several years," he explained. "I had to learn national tree species and a lot of the skills I need for my career path. We even had to show we could use a Biltmore Stick! It was really fun. I got to compete against people from 41 states. We got to visit a forest outside Indianapolis where the nationals were held. Some of the best teams were from the South – the winning team was from Virginia."

But for Adam it's not all about trees: "What gave me my direction is my love for animals." His "indoor" pets include a guinea pig, a mixed-breed dog named Cassie, and "a cat named Princess who mostly belongs to my sisters." He has an older brother of 20 and his twin sisters just turned 13.

Now about fishing: "I love fishing for bass and pike. I fish at a lake in Massachusetts where we have a cottage just across the Connecticut border. I go out right when the sun comes up – the best time to fish."

Photo above courtesy of Adam Luchon



Alyssa Hotchkiss was inspired from an early age to focus on a career in fisheries: "I've been interested pretty much my whole life. I live in Colebrook and, literally, a river runs right through my backyard."

Although a dedicated musician – a saxophonist in Northwestern High School's Honors Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band, Alyssa decided in her junior year to pursue a career working at or owning a fish hatchery rather than teaching music. "I am fascinated with the process from the time the eggs are gathered to when the fish are released," she said. Making the change in her curriculum so late in her high school career wasn't easy: "I had to work to get accepted as a senior into our Honors Fisheries & Aquaculture program."

This new goal guided Alyssa's choice for college of SUNY (State University of New York) in Cobleskill. "It's really cool," she said. "It seemed a good fit for environmental studies. They have a hatchery and it's student-run. It couldn't get any better!"

Alyssa also hopes she'll be able to keep up with fishing. "My dad taught me traditional fishing when I was around six. We also sometimes go fly fishing, mostly for trout," she explained. She has fished in the river on her family's property, at a pond in Avon, and at the Fish and Game Club in Hartland.

Ultimately, she says, "I want to tie my own flies."



Photos this page courtesy of Alyssa Hotchkiss, above with saxophone; Far left, learning to use a Biltmore Stick.

GAME OF LOGGING COMPETITION SEPTEMBER 21

NAME	BIG STUMP	S. CUT	SPRG POLE	BORE CUT	PREC. STMP.	BUCK-ING	AIM. SCORE	FELL-ING ⁷⁵	LIMB ²⁵	TOTAL Sub Total
Bill CARVER	40	40	45	39	42	25	100	110	110	441/551
Marshall Jamison	35	20	45	34	57	0	80	148	25	296/444
Jeremy Bellows	50	10	50	41	52	35	100	140	120	458/598
Jerry Bellows	25	50	50	54	45	40	60	126	110	434/554
Chris Rudgers	45	30	30	27	45	0	80	150	60	317/467
Darryl Rudgers	45	60	45	44	22	0	60	68	90	366/434

The scoreboard above speaks for itself. Jeremy Bellows won First Place (598 points) in the 2019 Southern New England Regional Game of Logging Competition on Saturday, September 21, at the Woodstock Fairgrounds in Woodstock, CT. Gerald Bellows, Jeremy's father, came in Second Place (554) followed closely by Bill Carver (551) in Third Place. The competition was held in conjunction with Celebrating Agriculture and the Log A Load fundraiser supporting the Children's Miracle Network affiliate the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford.



Daryl Rudgers demonstrates the safe way to drop the pole by making cuts from two sides.



Father and son Gerald and Jeremy Bellows were a two-man team for the tree limbing event.

All photos courtesy of Joan Nichols

*Game of Logging Team below: L to R Top: Gerald Bellows, Marshall Jamison, Bill Carver, Daryl Rudgers
Bottom: Bill Girard, Jeremy Bellows, Chris Rudgers, Bill Lindloff*



THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

MEETING WITH STATE REPRESENTATIVE MARIA HORN

by Hallie Metzger



TIMPRO can take pride in the way Henry and Eric Gundlach and Kevin Massey represented our industry in a September 17 meeting with State Representative Maria Horn. In fact, Representative Horn talked about it in her Capitol Report for the week of September 16.

The meeting began at the South Norfolk Lumber Company where Henry and Eric described the challenges facing the state's forest products industry. Representative Horn and Henry then went to the Great Mountain Forest to see how management is addressing the die-off of elm trees due to the Emerald Ash Borer.

Watching Kevin Massey at work, Rep. Horn commented, "Kevin Massey, a recent Housatonic grad and impressive representative of the fantastic Agriculture Program there, talked about his work in the forest and about developments in forestry generally. Henry and Kevin have traveled nationally to advocate on the topic, where Kevin more than held his own as a young leader amongst a lot of gray hair! It was great to talk with him about what he's doing and his leadership in the forestry industry."

"I extend my thanks to Henry Gundlach and his brother Eric for spending time with me at their lumber yard and talking to me about the changing business, forestry, and the state of local forests...Both Henry and Kevin are part of the great tradition of our Agricultural Program at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. And to see Henry's commitment to that program and to the young people he has worked with over the years is a really powerful thing," she stated.

Representative Horn especially liked a quote Henry recalled from one of his own mentors: "You learn with your ears, not with your mouth."

You can read the transcript at Rep Horn's website where you can also watch and hear her: <https://mailchi.mp/3d4aefadec9/state-capitol-update-week-of-sept-16?e=56f2aafdac>. Scroll to 10:30 for the beginning of the section on her visit.

The September meeting grew out of my meeting with State Representative Horn on August 23. Sipping coffee together at the Norfolk Country Store, we chatted about the general state of the forest products industry, about the threats to Connecticut forestland, and about how the State Legislature can address our issues. The 64th Assembly District encompasses Canaan, Cornwall, Goshen, Kent, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, and Torrington. A Salisbury resident and member of its Board of Finance, Representative Horn has extensive experience in finance and law. She actively supports many local non-profits such as the Indian Mountain School in Lakeville and Women's Support Services, a domestic violence prevention agency. Today, she chairs the Women's Support Service's Governance Committee. We are fortunate to have such a receptive and informed legislator representing us.

Photo courtesy of Rep Horn.

TIMPRO AT THE CONNECTICUT ENVIROTHON

By Joan Nichols

Retired CT DEEP Forester Jim Parda and I volunteered in October to help the teams prepare for the upcoming Envirothon Field Event competition on May 21. Jim and I taught pacing and use of Biltmore stick for tree measurement. I also provided a table of Connecticut forest products including flooring, mulch, and fuel chips courtesy of Hull Forest Products, witch hazel, and a timber frame joint courtesy of Strong Timber Framers.

This terrific program, started and carried out by Conservation Districts throughout the country, makes a real difference for students: Our own Kevin Massey, now a TIMPRO Board member, participated in Envirothon when he was in high school. This natural resource based curriculum for high school students culminates in a field day competition.

Private funds and in-kind services support its yearly programs of student workshops, teacher resources, and the



annual field event.

Current donors are Pratt & Whitney and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The program also relies on a committed team of volunteers from all fields of natural resources from across the US and Canada.

CT Envirothon winners go on to represent the state at the Canon North American Envirothon where they compete with teams from most US States and Canadian Provinces. Team CT has won first place in this event three times and consistently achieves high scores.

We can help the students and the program by volunteering to assist with the workshops. It is an

amazing experience to help the next generation pursue careers in natural resources.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact me at nicholsforestry@comcast.net To learn more about Envirothon visit www.ctenvirothon.org.



Photos courtesy of Jean Laughman



PO Box 508
Oneco, CT 06373

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019-2020

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 508

Oneco, CT 06373

860-948-0432

info@timproct.org

Articles, ideas, pictures
you'd like to see?
hallie.metzger@rcn.com

DECEMBER 4 Board of Directors Pot Luck Dinner 6-9 PM, Farm Bureau Building, 78 Beaver Rd, Wethersfield, CT

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.