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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

A BUSY SEASON!

* Timpro Legislative Representative Joan Nichols reported that on Wednesday, May 8, the Climate bill along with the DEEP bill died in the legislature. She noted that the existing Act concerning paid sick leave currently requires employers in certain fields with 50 or more employees to provide paid sick leave to their employees. But beginning January 1, 2025 the Act will cover more fields and apply to employers with 25 or more employees.

*Joan Nichols and Henry Gundlach visited with 2nd District U. S. Representative Joe Courtney during the American Loggers Council Fly In in Washington, DC. (Photo Courtesy of Rep. Courtney)

*Our application is underway to join the American Loggers Council.

* The NELA Expo sold out their vendor space and there were about 5000 in attendance. Henry Gundlach and Joan Nichols now serve on the NELA Board.



During the Expo, NELA invited students from its own educational Shelterwood Project (left) to attend. Quoted in *The Northern Logger*, Joan Nichols said, "This year's Shelterwood project was a resounding success. The kids were very excited to learn about the various types of equipment. Sitting in the equipment was the highlight of the day. The beautiful weather allowed them to sit outside and watch the loader competition... that was an added bonus!"

(Photo courtesy of 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, 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 MEMBERS MEET WITH CT-DEEP COMMISSIONER KATIE DYKES

Brennan Sheahan, Forester

On Tuesday, May 14th, Chris Martin (Director/State Forester CT DEEP) invited TIMPRO members Joan Nichols, Henry Gundlach, and myself to meet with Katie Dykes, CT-DEEP Commissioner to have a round table discussion regarding the current and future direction of CT's forest management on public lands and the impact this could have on the industry and the citizens of this beautiful state. Commissioner Dykes was kind enough to schedule time for this important topic.

Present at the meeting were: Commissioner Dykes; Deputy Commissioner Mason Trumble; Natural Resources Bureau Chief Justin Davis; State Forester Chris Martin; and Nick Zito, DEEP Forestry Staff.

Commissioner Dykes started off the meeting affirming that her agency is in full support of CT's forest products industry. She did say that in the future she was looking for the industry's support as the Lamont administration continues to push their "green agenda." The room fell silent for a quick minute.

Timpro had three topics of concern:

1. The potential to follow Massachusetts's Governor Healy administration and put a moratorium on timber harvesting to study carbon sequestration and favor old growth forests.
2. Forest health and the State's policy on maintaining a sense of urgency for managing for healthy and resilient forests
3. The carbon movement and its potential to change a hundred years of science-based forest management based on decades of research success.

After spending well over an hour with Commissioner Dykes, the Timpro delegation left the meeting with a strong sense of commitment from her with respect towards the forest products industry. Commissioner Dykes stated that she is firmly rooted in the principles of forest management and will not be swayed by the Proforestation movement. She will not be implementing any moratoriums, wants to see Chris Martin and his team manage against invasive insects and disease to their best abilities, and hasn't bought into the carbon sequestration movement (as seen recently in NH's northern forests).

It was a very informative meeting and Timpro is very thankful for the Commissioner's time and the time of the other participants. We all agreed to not wait 5 years before sitting down together once again.

APRIL 10 2024, WORKSHOP AND ANNUAL MEETING



WHY BUY A NEW HARVESTER?

Featured at the Timpro CT Annual Meeting on April 10 was a new John Deere Harvester with a Waratah head brought in by Jeffrey Viola (left) of J&J Logging & Lumber Corporation in Dover Plains, New York.

After Viola talked about the hydraulics, Justin Gundlach explained why J&J decided to buy a new harvester. With a price of over \$800,000 dollars, it was a major investment and not one to be undertaken lightly.

Gundlach outlined some of the factors that went into the decision. One was the age of the harvester J&J was using. It needed a lot of work and the technology was obsolete. It had broken down several times which cost J&J downtime. Upgrading it would have been very expensive, especially as it was DOS-based. Gundlach explained that they could have retooled it but that would have meant completely dismantling and rebuilding it. And even then they would still have been left with 2006 technology. "It wouldn't have been worth it for all that work," Gundlach shared in a phone interview. The new harvester uses a Windows-based PC. "It's a lot easier to diagnose and fix problems. I can get help over the phone whereas before I had to remove the computer and take it in. It has GPS and Bluetooth. It can do mapping. It does way more than I need it to do," Gundlach pointed out.

So it made sense, even though markets are poor right now, to buy a new harvester and take advantage of all the new technology it offered, especially as J&J's work has to do with volume, not acreage.

Gundlach explained, "The bigger capacity head enables us to do more mechanically than on the ground with chainsaws. In our neck of the woods, we're starting to have more and more dead trees to cut – ash killed by the Emerald Ash Borer and oak killed by Spongy Moth (formerly known as the Gypsy moth)."

Most important of all, he underlined, "Dead trees mean more overhead dangers. So, if you can be in a machine, the more the better. There is no price on safety."



Photos this page and above right courtesy of Joan Nichols

ADAPTIVE SILVICULTURE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Amanda Bunce, University of Connecticut Extension Forester

I introduced the audience to the "Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change" project, also known as ASCC. The ASCC network is a research network of forest sites in the US and Canada (and maybe Mexico soon) where foresters are trying out ways to make their forests more resilient to climate change.

You can learn more at <https://www.adaptivesilviculture.org/>, and check out our project, the "Southern New England Exurban Oak." It's listed under "affiliate" sites because it's a little different from normal projects. Usually researchers work with 400 acre experimental areas; and while that wasn't realistic for New England, we still felt it was really important to do this project here. So we followed the same research protocol but used sites that were smaller and more spread out.



The first walkthrough at Mohegan State Forest where we later installed the first experimental site. You can see here the canopy loss from the drought/spongy moth years. Pictured are Bob Fahey from UConn and Will Holhozer from DEEP. UConn and DEEP have been working closely from the site visit in 2020 to the management in 2022, through the monitoring we continue to do today.

Every trial involves local experts, local stakeholders, and local foresters and together they make a management plan that addresses climate vulnerabilities on the site while also meeting forest management objectives for that site. In southern New England we have a lot more storms to deal with, generally a lot more water, but also drought in the summer, and we have some new pests and new combinations of old pests. The sites we chose had suffered a lot of canopy mortality from a combination of drought and spongy moth infestation in 2016-2018, and needed some management to help them recover.

Objectives for our site were to keep viable timber growing on the site and to improve it for recreation including hunting on one of the sites. Mainly, we tried to improve the health of the trees growing there now, which might seem kind of obvious, and to increase the diversity of species and structures (age classes and spacing), because more diversity means more chances to resist or recover from disturbances. We aren't inventing any crazy new techniques, we're just doing what foresters already know how to do, but with the very explicit intention of improving the forests' capacity to handle the changes we are already experiencing and those we think are coming. We will be monitoring how the sites respond to management to keep our forests healthy and productive.

APRIL 10 2024, WORKSHOP AND ANNUAL MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING RAFFLE SUPPORTS LOG-A-LOAD

Timpro has raised an additional \$768 dollars for Log-A-Load including \$230 raised in September and \$538 from a raffle held at the April Workshop and Annual Meeting. A special thanks to those who generously donated raffle items:

Stihl PPE	Beaver Brook Saw Shop, Scotland, CT
Hard Hat	Henry Gundlach, South Norfolk Lumber Company, Norfolk, CT
Wooden Cutting Board	Peter Hart, Center Hill Lumber, Barkhamsted, CT
Wooden Bench	E. R. Hinman Sawmill, Burlington, CT
Stihl Chainsaw	Beaver Brook Saw Shop, Scotland, CT and Joan Nichols, Forester



TIMPRO AT THE AMERICAN LOGGERS COUNCIL DC FLY-IN



Joan Nichols and Henry Gundlach attended the American Loggers Council (ALC) Washington, DC Fly-In April 17-19 this year. ALC describes itself as “Loggers working for Loggers.” The event included speeches, workshops, and displays as well as time for attendees to visit their state legislators.

Photo courtesy Joan Nichols

TIMPRO WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

Nicholas Mangiameme
 Hull Forest Products
 101 Hampton RD
 Pomfret Center, Connecticut 06259
 860-933-8645
 Services: Forestry/Land Management
 Certification: Supervising Forest Products Harvester

Austin Harmon
 Hull Forest Products
 101 Hampton RD
 Pomfret Center, Connecticut 06259
 860-974-0127, Ext 135
 Services: Forestry/Land Management, Timber Harvesting, Land Clearing, Purchase of Logs/Log Buyer
 Products: Hardwood Lumber, Flooring, Wood/ Bark Mulch, Tree-length Firewood
 Certification: Supervising Forest Products Harvester

Chris Lernery
 Hull Forest Products
 101 Hampton RD
 Pomfret Center, Connecticut 06259
 860-576-5875
 Services: Forestry/Land Management, Timber Harvesting, Land clearing, Trucking/Timber transport, Purchase of Logs/Log Buyer
 Products: Hardwood lumber, softwood lumber, Lumber, Wood/ Bark Mulch, Tree-length Firewood
 Certification: Supervising Forest Products Harvester



Bits and Chokers

Here are updates on two events we've followed recently. One is the successful work to restore the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris after the devastating fire in 2019. The other is a case of "arboricide," the wanton destruction of the Sycamore Gap tree in England.

Archinect News reported that Notre-Dame Cathedral's spire (below) is back in place by the end of the year. *France 24* reported that restoration work on the cathedral's interior walls, murals, ironwork, joinery, stained glass windows, and surviving sculptures have all been completed. Officials say the last portions of the project will be finished no later than December 8th of this year. Friends of Notre Dame shared that the entire structure, known as "the forest" due to its dense network of wooden trusses, has now been completely rebuilt above the vaults of Notre Dame. "This marks the end of the carpenters' work on restoring the cathedral's great roof," the website noted. The work was carried out by carpenters using only medieval tools and techniques. A full reopening before this summer's Olympic Games in Paris will not be possible. However, the reconstruction is still on track for completion by the end of 2024.



The Independent reported that two men, Daniel Graham, 38, and Adam Carruthers, 31, have now been charged with felling the Sycamore Gap tree. The tree, believed to have been one of the most photographed in the country, used to sit in a gap along Hadrian's Wall – a UNESCO world heritage site – and a popular hotspot for tourists and walkers. It is believed to date back to medieval times. The tree was cut down in September and the men were arrested in October.

The criminal damage caused by the felling of the Sycamore Gap tree has been valued at more than £620,000, according to court documents. Harm to the tree has been valued at £622,191, with £1,144 for the wall. But good news is that the rescued seeds have sprouted giving hope that the iconic tree has a future. BBC News reporters saw the new shoots on a rare visit to the secret National Trust centre protecting the seedlings.

WHITE PINE NEEDLE DISEASE (WPND) IN EASTERN CONNECTICUT



A bulletin from the Wolf Den Land Trust in Eastern Connecticut reports this year's widespread needle browning and loss on eastern white pines. According to UConn Extension Forester Tom Worthley this is caused by "a complex combination of needle fungi commonly referred to as "White Pine Needle Disease", or "WPND". The following is edited from the UMass Extension System fact sheet:

WPND is primarily caused by four fungal pathogens: *Lecanosticta acicola* (formerly *Mycosphaerella dearnessii*), *Septorioides strobi*, *Bifusella linearis* and *Lophophacidium dooksii* (formerly *Canavirgella banfieldii*) among other needle

pathogens. Symptoms of WPND largely depend on the pathogen responsible, but all result in premature needle shedding. The needle blight pathogens rarely kill trees by themselves. Yet, the annual cycle of infection and loss of older foliage creates a chronic stress that can severely weaken trees and exhaust stored resources. WPND is favored by wet weather in May, June and July, when white pines are flushing new growth. A changing climate in the northeast contributes to WPND by creating conditions more conducive for disease development and spread. In particular, the region is experiencing more frequent rainfall events from May through July. Additionally, WPND is favored by high relative humidity at night and mild temperatures, conditions that are usually common in late spring and early summer throughout the northeast. The northeast has been experiencing an increase in average temperature during the cumulative growing season since the mid-20th century. The combined effects of increased temperature and precipitation have improved conditions for WPND pathogens. Spore dispersal primarily occurs from late May through August but the peak dispersal period occurs in mid-June in many locations. This peak spore dispersal period not only coincides with peak shedding of older, diseased needles but also with elongation of the current season's needles. These young and immature needles are readily infected but will not show symptoms of WPND for many months. The long, latent period between infection and symptom development is common for many needle blight pathogens of conifers.



FINNISH FOREST SCHOOL

Erika Benke for BBC



Four-year old nursery school student Kauko hardly spends any time in school. He is out in the forest all day. His *Samoojat* group (an old Finnish word for people who forage in the forest) is outside no matter what the weather – even though winter days can be -28F and snow is on the ground for at least two months.

Throughout the year, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings, the *Samoojat* group of 21 children, aged three to five, trek for up to 40 minutes in the forest to get to their base camp. They spend seven hours outdoors, eating lunch in an open shelter and taking a nap in a tent before walking back to the nursery mid-afternoon. When the ground is frozen from November to March, they eat lunch and take a nap in a nearby house. Even then they are outside for

five to six hours, often in freezing weather.

About that weather: Finns say there's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing. The children wear layers of thermal clothing, warm jackets, waterproof coats, and snowsuits. But the real key is to keep moving.

A Finnish study found that playing in grass and forest undergrowth, such as heather and blueberry planted in nursery yards at four daycare centers, boosted the immune systems of three to five-year-old children within 28 days. The results support the assumption that contact with nature prevents disorders in the immune system, such as autoimmune diseases and allergies.



Photo above courtesy of Erika Berke

Photo courtesy of Juho Pietarila

WAS THE STONE AGE REALLY THE AGE OF WOOD?

That's the question posed by New York Times reporter Franz Lidz.

In an article published May 4, Lidz explained how Danish Scientist Christian Jurgensen Thomsen's three stages of human advancement reflected in the tools that survive to this day: The Stone Age gave way to the Bronze Age which gave way to the Iron Age.

But archeologist Thomas Terberger, head of research at the Department of Cultural Heritage of Lower Saxony in Germany, begs to differ. "We can probably assume that wooden tools have been around just as long as stone ones – two and a half or three million years," he said. He pointed out that wooden objects deteriorate and aren't preserved. That absence "distorts our view of antiquity." He noted that stone implements have been found at thousands of Paleolithic archeological sites but wooden objects at fewer than 10 sites.

Dr. Terberger led a recent study of objects found in an open-pit coal mine in Northern Germany. The haul dating back to about 300,000 years ago included two dozen complete or fragmented spears, each as tall as an NBA center, as well as double-pointed throwing sticks about half the length of a pool cue.

The items are now protected from decay in chilled tubs of distilled water to simulate the waterlogged sediment where they were found. Using 3-D microscopy and micro-CT scanners, researchers have identified wear and cut marks showing evidence of splitting and scraping. That demonstrates that our early ancestors were not merely scavengers. At least 40,000 years ago they had tool-making skills and social interaction necessary to fashion sophisticated devices for hunting big game.

Dr. Annemieke Milks, an anthropologist from the University of Reading, has been studying how carefully the wood was cut, planed, shaped and balanced, and even repaired after being damaged. For her it's proof our Neanderthal ancestors were artisans. "Working with wood is slow," she said. "Even if you're good at it there are lots of different steps in the process." She pictured a group of neanderthal working together around an evening campfire. "It all seems very, very close, in a way, even though it was such a long, long time ago."



Wooden hunting spears found in a German open-pit coal mine.

(Photo courtesy of Niedersächsisches)



PO Box 132
Bozrah, CT
06334

**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 132

Bozrah, CT 06334

860-948-0432

info@timproct.org

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

hallie.metzger@gmail.com

CHECK OUR WEBSITE TIMPROCT.ORG FOR LISTINGS

Wednesday, August 7, 2024, Plant Science Day,
Lockwood Farm, Hamden, 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.