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# The Cutting Edge



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Log A Load Fundraising Flyer enclosed

Cover Photo courtesy of Kit Serafini

Cover Art: Deborah Roach

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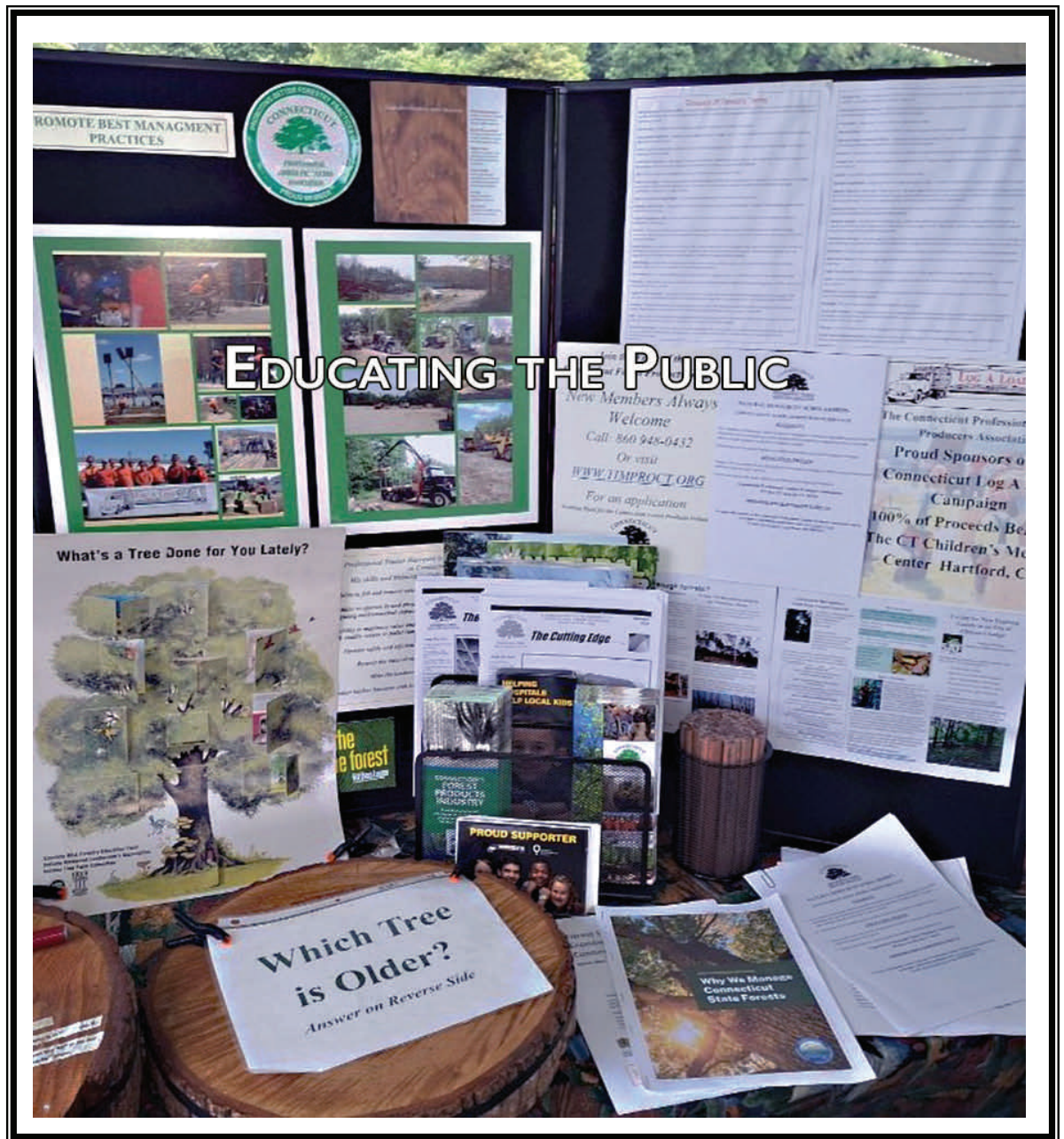
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The Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association, Inc. (TIMPRO CT) is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)6 non-profit corporation. Our mission is to enhance the image and understanding of the forest products industry throughout the state through public outreach programs, education, and a commitment to professionalism among our members.

## TIMPRO CT NEWS

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### TIMPRO UPDATES

Since its founding, Timpro has worked to promote education not just for our members but also for the general public. We are grateful for volunteer members who devote hours to setting up displays at public events and being present to answer questions, explain our work, and counter misinformation.

This issue highlights much of what we've done so far to achieve those goals. First up: Our 2024 Scholarship Winners. Then you can read about the WI Clark Event, our participation in Plant Science Day, and more. Please consider volunteering with us.

### ANNOUNCING OUR 2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Each year Timpro CT awards two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors who plan to attend a two- or four-year institute of higher education in the field of natural resources.

We are pleased to announce this year's recipients Sydney Alysyn Mullen and Nicholas L. Boggio.

Sydney, a graduate of Killingly High School, has served as both Vice President and President of the Killingly Future Farmers of America. She is now at the University of Connecticut majoring in Agriculture and Natural Resources. She has a special interest in Animal Science and loves working with horses.

Nicholas L. Boggio, a graduate of Wamogo Regional High School, has started his freshman year at SUNY focusing on Environmental Science and Forestry. An Eagle Scout, he is interested in becoming a wildlife biologist.

Look for interviews with our awardees in the next issue.

#### **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](http://www.timproct.org).

## CONNECTICUT SAWMILLS NEED SKILLED WORKERS

Timpro can't meet all educational needs on its own. From Nick Zito comes word that 2 sawmills in Connecticut cannot find enough workers to keep running. He asked us to share a link to Northcentral Technical College in Waukesha, Wisconsin. (<https://www.ntc.edu/>)

Founded in 1912, Northcentral offers programs and degrees in Wood Science that will prepare technicians for work at sawmills and in the wider forest products industry. Nick has toured the facility and found it very interesting. He also asked us to speak to high school students we meet about this work as a future career path to consider.

The Northcentral website notes that, "with over one million forestry jobs in the United States," the skills learned in its courses are in high demand. Many classes are in-person but some are online.

We have posted links to Northcentral Technical College on our website. The College offers include:

- ◆ Wood Science Associate Degree – hands on using latest design software and cutting edge manufacturing equipment.
- ◆ Wood Technology Technical Diploma – one year program covering material science, lumber inspection, quality assurance, and machine operation
- ◆ Band Saw Filer Certificate – a four week program covering techniques to bench, fit, and repair saws while learning to align them and improve longevity and efficiency.
- ◆ Basic Wood Manufacturing Certificate – identification, inspection and scaling of lumber and logs; the machining and physical properties of wood; and the manufacturing processes and methods found in the forest products industry as well as two-dimensional drafting and an environmental component focusing on recycling and the elimination of waste.
- ◆ Hardwood Manufacturers Certificate – meets fast-growing demand for people by the hardwood manufacturing industry. Classes use Northcentral's 27,000 sq ft state of the art Wood Technology Center of Excellence.
- ◆ Hardwood Sawmilling Certificate – a 4-week certification course that prepares student for in-demand positions within the hardwood lumber industry.

Call 715-675-3331 for more information. Let's help spread the word!



## INTRODUCING NEW BOARD MEMBER NICHOLAS MANGIAMELE

Presiding over the Hull table during the recent Agricultural Fair in Brooklyn, Nicholas Mangiamele noticed the nearby TIMPRO stand and started talking with Joan Nichols. They soon discovered common links in their New York backgrounds and their professions. Then Joan invited him to join Timpro.

"I said I'd think about it. I looked into it and I joined along with the other foresters I work with," Mangiamele explained in a phone interview. And now we welcome him not just as a member but also as an addition to our Board.

Mangiamele brings a range of experience. After getting an Associate degree in Forest Technology and then a BS in Forest Resources Management from SUNY College of Environmental Sciences, he spent a summer in West Virginia on industrial timberlands. "It was all hardwoods, similar to here but with a lot more tulip poplar mixed in with the oaks," he recalled. "It was interesting being there. Harvesting was done one 100-acre clearcut at a time, highly mechanized work on steep slopes. There was a market for everything - hardwood lumber, oriented strained board, paper pulp, and even white oak barrel staves. Regeneration was all natural."

"But things are stacking up against us," he continued. "Hardwood lumber value hasn't kept up with inflation. No one becomes a forester or logger to be a millionaire but we've got to make a living and make good use of this natural resource. Loggers do some of the most important work in active forest management and without them, I'm some guy who can paint trees blue."

Currently with Hull for a little over a year, Mangiamele meets with landowners, inventories properties, drafts management plans, and marks and administers timber sales. His route to forestry wasn't planned. "I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do when I was young," he explained. "I like being outside and it's a good mix of many skills. It's a lot more than meets the eye and I get to work with a whole lot of different people."

A resident of Eastford, where the "Dark Corner" offers lots of outdoor recreational opportunity, Mangiamele laughed when asked about favorite activities: "I'm very glad I spend a lot of my time outdoors for work but I don't go hiking much on the weekends. I like canoeing." Other interests are working on small engines and reading. He is currently studying for the qualifying test to become a licensed forester.



## OUR ONE TIME “YOUNGEST MEMBER” HAS GROWN UP!



In 2016, Timpro celebrated Eryk Thurber of Rhode Island as our youngest member. Back then we reported:

“Eryk S. Thoman-Thurber may be new to TIMPRO CT but he is actually a second-generation member of our organization. A junior at Ponaganset High School in Foster, RI, he has been working in the woods with his father, Robert Thurber, for years. ‘I was home-schooled until 6<sup>th</sup> grade,’ Eryk explained, ‘so I spent lots of time in the woods with my father.’ Eryk has handled almost every type of equipment, such as skidders and feller bunchers, and has done almost every kind of job in the woods. In addition to helping out at Jerimoth Forestry, his father’s company, he also works at a local sawmill. He has taken the Game of Logging Level 1 training course twice and is president of his school’s FFA chapter. In addition, he is a member of the school band where he plays trumpet. Finally, he has raised and trained oxen teams for competition. ‘A family friend introduced me to oxen and I had my first team when I was eight,’ he recalled. Now with his second team, he competes in fairs and shows. He sees his future in the woods. ‘I’m looking at soil science or forest management,’ he said, ‘maybe a combination.’ And he intends to become an active member in TIMPRO CT. ‘I won’t always be a junior member,’ he promised.”

Now 26 years old, Thurber is an established logger and owner of Jerimoth Forestry. A July *Northern Logger* profile charted his course over these past eight years. The article highlighted that he has a four-year degree in forest and forest operations from the University of Maine. Furthermore, he supported himself thanks to a deal with his Dad allowing him to use an old John Deere 440 cable skidder. This “side-job” is now a full-time business based in Etna, Maine. Dividing his time between commercial logging and consulting forestry, he also has a portable sawmill for private jobs.

Thurber is now interning with a licensed forester and hopes to become fully licensed himself. And while we’re sorry we’ve lost him to Maine, we’re glad he’s still doing what he loves.





## TIMPRO EVENTS By Kit Serafini, Timpro Secretary

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### THE JOHN DEERE WORKSHOP

On July 11, WI Clark sponsored a John Deere Workshop at their main facility in Wallingford.

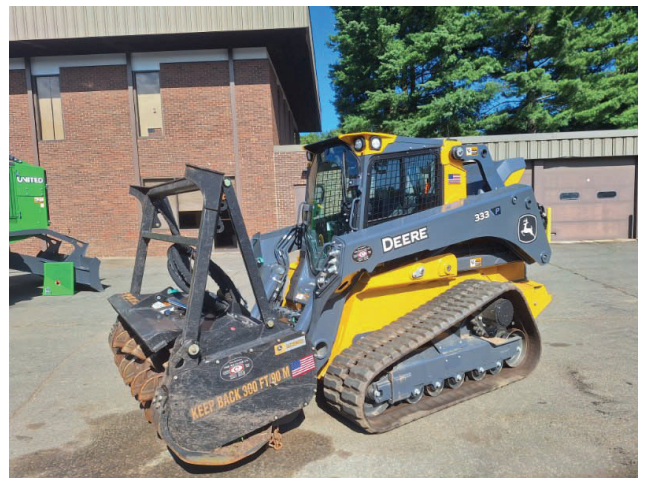
The two John Deere presenters were Grant St. Amand and Natalie Higgins. They spoke about the new technology in John Deere equipment and how beneficial it is for loggers, such as increased productivity, less downtime, and communications from computer to equipment to other pieces of equipment. The presentation was very detailed.

Representatives from AFEX - Fire Suppression Systems also presented. Paul Uzzle, Enterprise Account Manager even came up from Raleigh, North Carolina. The AFEX speakers described different systems that can be put into machinery and why it would be beneficial to have a fire suppression system. For example, the more computers the equipment has, the hotter these computers get, thus increasing fire risks.

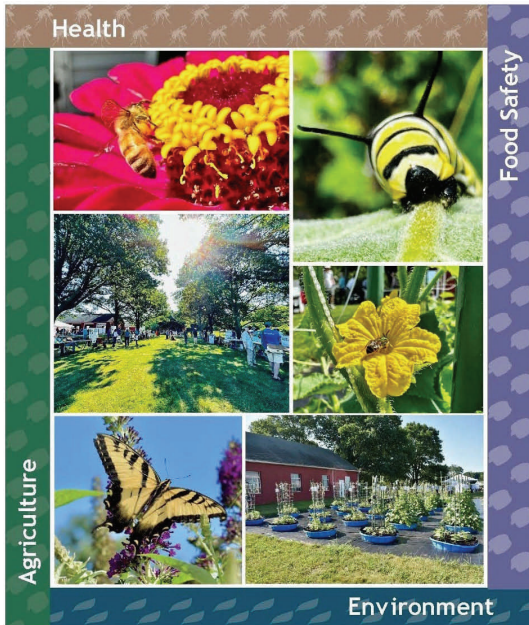


WI Clark was well represented by President Doug Hansen, Vice President Mark Hansen, and Manager of Operations Russell Hansen. There were also sales managers, sales reps, and mechanics on hand as well. While they did not make presentations, they were available to speak with our attendees afterwards. Indeed, many did linger afterwards to talk to them.

Our attendees said they really enjoyed the class and said they learned more than they thought they would.



## PLANT SCIENCE DAY



The 114th Plant Science Day was held on Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in Hamden, CT. The event was open to the public from 10-4. Timpro was represented by Henry Gundlach (below) and myself. Joan Nichols was nearby at the Farm Bureau table.

More than 700 participants including 88 children, braved rainy, windy, cool weather. We ended up strapping down our table-top display to keep it from toppling over onto the woman at the table behind us! The presentations were all wonderful - very well put together and informative.

My daughters attended with me as well and had a blast with all the hands-on displays, from looking at Root-Knot Nematodes and Mosquito Larvae under microscopes to learning that you can spray plants with milk to use as a natural deer repellent.

We spoke with many people from around the state who were very interested in the Forest Industry. There were landowners looking for information on how to manage their forests and individuals looking for information on what CT-Grown produced or manufactured forest products are and where they can find them. People seem to really want local products!

Joan provided two Red Oak wood chips from the same lot inviting people to guess which tree was older. Kids loved counting the rings. It turned out the smaller one was older at 83 years while the bigger one was 69 years old. Joan had also labeled one with events in history that happened at corresponding times with the age rings. Adults enjoyed having Henry explain how an International Scaling Stick is used. Almost all the people that we spoke to had a positive view of the Forest Industry or were interested in learning.







## Bits and Chokers



*Founded 1875*

### RECORD RED OAK ACORN CROP STATEWIDE

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is reporting a significant increase in acorn abundance in the red oak group this year as compared to past years, a phenomenon referred to as either a “mast year” or “bumper crop.” Except in the northern corners of Connecticut, residents should expect to see an unusually high number of red oak acorns hit the ground this fall. Nearly 87% of all red oaks in the study were documented with acorns compared to a historical average of 57%. In contrast, all survey locations noted an acorn

crop failure in the white oak group with only 9% of trees producing acorns compared to a historical average of 25%.

Twelve locations across the state are surveyed for acorn crop abundance on mature oak trees (300 red oak group, 275 white oak group) each August. Although acorn production can be highly variable year-to-year, red oaks tend to produce reliable acorn crops every three to five years while white oak masting events are less predictable. Recent bumper crops occurred in red oaks in 2016 and 2019 and in 2015 for white oaks. “A bumper crop can drive several ecological processes in our forests, such as the opportunity to help maintain and perpetuate declining oak populations while providing a nutritious food source to sustain wildlife populations throughout the winter months,” according to Joseph Barsky, lead forest researcher for the study. “Masting events can also lead to higher rodent populations, which serve as primary reservoir hosts for numerous human pathogens including the bacteria that causes Lyme disease,” noted Dr. Scott Williams, Chief Scientist, Department of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Twelve species of oaks are native to Connecticut, including *Quercus rubra* (northern red), *Q. coccinea* (scarlet), *Q. velutina* (black), *Q. palustris* (pin), and *Q. ilicifolia* (bear) in the red oak group and *Q. alba* (white), *Q. bicolor* (swamp white), *Q. montana* (chestnut), *Q. prinoides* (dwarf chestnut), *Q. muehlenbergii* (chinquapin), *Q. stellata* (post), and *Q. macrocarpa* (bur) in the white oak group.





## WOODEN WIND TURBINES SCALE THE HEIGHTS



David Olivegren of Modvion inspects a modular section of the wooden turbine tower in the factory

What is made from the same wood as a Christmas tree, held together by glue, and manufactured in a Swedish factory for assembly later?

No, it's not Ikea flat-pack furniture.

According to BBC Environmental Reporter Jonah Fisher, Swedish start-up Modvion recently built the world's tallest wooden wind turbine tower. "It's got great potential," said Otto Lundman, the company's chief executive. The company's longest blade is 492ft end to end. A 2 megawatt generator atop the tower provides power for about 400 homes. But

Lundman wants Modvion to go even bigger.

Steel, used for almost all of the world's turbine towers, has limitations, particularly on land. One is getting huge pieces of metal to turbine sites. This limits how tall new steel turbines can be. Wood turbines and tower units are stronger but lighter and hence more convenient to transport and assemble. Lundman cites the strength that comes from 144 layers of laminated veneer lumber (LVL) making up the tower's thick walls. By varying the grain of each 3 mm-thick layer of spruce, Modvion can control the wall's strength and flexibility.

At the factory near Gothenburg, thin layers of wood are glued and compressed to make the curved sections. These are then taken on site, glued into cylinders and then stacked on top of each other to make the tower. (Above and right) "It's our secret recipe," says company co-founder, former architect and boat builder David Olivegren. "Wood and glue is the perfect combination, we've known that for hundreds of years. And because using wood is lighter [than steel] you can build taller turbines with less material."



The wooden parts of the turbine tower are glued together on site

Moreover steel manufacture requires extremely hot furnaces that burn fossil fuels. That means CO2 emissions - the main driver of climate change. Modvion says using wood instead of steel eliminates the wind turbines' carbon footprint entirely, making them carbon negative. That's because the trees take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere when they are alive. When chopped down, the carbon is stored in the wood. As long as the wood doesn't rot or isn't burned, the carbon is stored. About 200 spruce trees went into Modvion's recent turbine tower and the company says they are farmed sustainably, meaning when they are harvested more are planted.



Engineers work on the construction of the world's tallest wooden turbine tower

## THE REAL HISTORY OF SMOKEY [THE] BEAR

In the spring of 1941, a Japanese submarine surfaced off the coast of Santa Barbara, California and fired at an oil field close to Los Padres National Forest. The threat to the vital timber resources led the Forest Service to create the Cooperative Fire Prevention Program (CFPP). To promote fire prevention efforts Walt Disney "loaned" images from "Bambi" to be used in the CFPP public relations campaign. But that loan was only for a year.

Searching for another appealing animal for its campaign, the Forest Service settled on a bear cub – Smokey Bear – who warned the public that "Only you can prevent forest fires."

Then in 1950, the campaign acquired a real-life Smokey Bear. Firefighters outside Capitan, New Mexico found a cub



clinging to a charred tree, its paws and hind legs badly burned. They gently removed it and a New Mexico Department of Game and Fish ranger [left] flew the cub to Santa Fe where its burns were treated. Named Smokey Bear, the cub lived in the Washington, DC National Zoo from 1950 until his death in 1976. He received so much correspondence, he was given his own zip code.

In 1952, an Act of Congress removed Smokey Bear's image from the public domain so it could not be commercially exploited. Royalties from the sale of his image fund wildlife fire prevention education.

And that additional "the"? In 1952, Steve Nelson and Jack Rollins wrote a song about the cub. Pondering some lyrics that didn't flow, they inserted "the" between "Smokey" and "Bear" and it's been part of the cub's name ever since.



Photos this page courtesy of "The Story of Smokey" website

Photo opposite page courtesy of Eros Hoagland



### RESTORING "GOOD FIRE"

Sometimes thinking outside the box means going back to the good stuff still inside.

That is why members of the Tule River, North Fork Mono, and Tubatulabal tribes, among others, gathered in a circle among California sequoia to pray before setting a prescribed burn in the Alder Creek Grove. This is "good fire," a controlled burn that will remove invasive brush, reduce available fuel, and open up the stands for healthier regeneration. The "good fire" also helps reduce the numbers of invasive pine bark beetles.

As reported by New York Times reporter Jim Robbins (July 9, 2024), this gathering represents a major reversal of US fire suppression policy imposed for over a 100 years on public and tribal lands. As Robbins explained, the policy change resulted from a series of devastating wildfires including the 2020 Castle Fire that burned over 4 million acres and destroyed up to 1000 "monarch trees", a sequoia species measuring over 4' DBH.

This level of destruction partly results from prolonged droughts brought about by climate change. But more important are the fire suppression policies that were a 180° reversal of indigenous forest management practices. For thousands of years, indigenous tribes used controlled burns to clear underbrush and to reduce stand crowding. But those burns were outlawed as growing localities allowed or even encouraged housing development in fire prone ecosystems. Further, these localities laid few restrictions on homeowners to remove underbrush, to use fire-resistant plants, or to landscape with firebreaks. On public forests, the USFS allowed extensive logging operations that opened space for brush, especially non-native flammable invasives, and for abundant regeneration that crowded the stands.

Repairing the damage requires much more than simply reversing these policies. It also means restoring the native wildlife such as the beaver whose ponds helped maintain fire resistant stands.

To indigenous tribal members, this is not just about the health of the forests. It's about preserving their relationship with the forest. William Garfield, a forester and member of the Tule River Tribe, explained the sacred nature of the trees: "They hold the stories of the people because they have been here thousands of years."





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](mailto:info@timproct.org)

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

[hallie.metzger@gmail.com](mailto:hallie.metzger@gmail.com)

**LOG A LOAD FUNDRAISING UNDERWAY**

**SEE ENCLOSED FLYER FOR INFORMATION  
ON HOW TO DONATE**

**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](mailto:info@timproct.org).