

# WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



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## Minnesota Machinist Wins Big Arbitration



*IAM Grand Lodge Representative Rick Mickschl, left, and IAM Local 760 member Bill Maruk*

In December 2012, IAM Local 760 member Bill Maruk was terminated from his job at Boise Paper in International Falls, MN for insubordination. The IAM filed a grievance on behalf of the 41-year member, but the case went to arbitration after several unsuccessful attempts to resolve the matter.

Maruk was represented by IAM Grand Lodge Representative Rick Mickschl and District 165 Directing Business Representative Colleen Murphy-Cooney. After two hearings in June and July 2014, the arbitrator ruled that Maruk was unjustly terminated and reinstated him to his former job.

But after the IAM and the company failed to reach a settlement on other issues, the case was sent back to the arbitrator by the union who then ruled that Maruk was entitled to buyout compensation he would have been entitled to had he not been terminated. Seniority, medical, vacation and pension benefits were also agreed to.

“I was very fortunate to have good representation from the IAMAW,” said Maruk. “Grand Lodge Representative Mickschl was personable, very thorough, patient and knowledgeable of his job. My many years of paying dues proved to be great insurance considering the more than satisfactory, and well fought for, arbitration settlement.”

## 12th District Lodge W2 Convention Held in Mississippi

IAMAW delegates, members and guests attended the 12th District W2 Convention at the Goldstrike Hotel in Tunica, Mississippi in early June. The 78 registered delegates who hailed from eleven W2 local lodges had the opportunity to hear from guest speakers including, Southern Territory General Vice President Mark Blondin, IAM Woodworkers Chief of Staff Mike Rose, IAM Political Director Rick de la Fuente, Woodworkers Special Representative Bob Walls, DL W24 Directing Business Representative Chip Elliott, and Guide Dogs of America President Dale Hartford.



*Left to right: DL W2 ST Jeffrey Bell, DL W24 DBR Chip Elliott and DL W2 DBR Kelvin Godwin.*



## BIO-CORNER

Mike Mauldin initiated into St. Johns Local Lodge 1098 in 1990 while working at Georgia Pacific Pulp & Paper Operations in Palatka, Florida. Brother Mauldin began at Georgia Pacific as a pipefitter and was Shop Steward from 1990 until 1995 when he was elected as the lodge Vice President. He held that position until 2000 and then spent the next 3 years as the lodge's MNPL/Legislative Coordinator. In 2003 Mike was elected as Local Lodge 1098 President and holds this position today.

Local Lodge 1098 President is one of the hats that Mike wears. He currently is also President of the Machinists Southern Pulp & Paper Council (MSP&P), the National Special Project Coordinator for the Pulp and Paper Workers Resource Council (PPRC) and the only IAM member on the PPRC National Steering Committee.

Through Mike's work experience he has earned many certifications, including: Certified Welding Inspector, Certified Welding Educator, Radiographic Interpreter, Level 1—Ultrasonic Testing (UT), Level 2—Dye Penetrant Testing (PT) and, Level 2—Magnetic Particle Testing (MT).

Mike is married, with two children and 6 grandsons. When he is not wearing one of his other many "hats," Mike enjoys hunting and has been a member of Roy Road Hunting Club since 1972. He also enjoys salt water fishing and most importantly, spoiling his grandsons!

### DID YOU KNOW...

## The Role of Cooperatives in Forestry

The ability to pool resources, lower unit cost and increase revenues can be key to any business, but especially to the forest and agricultural sector. Cooperatives provide a business structure that facilitates the ability of farmers and foresters to generate the volume of material necessary to economically create value-added products, increase market access, lower cost to individuals for goods and services, and ultimately better manage the resource.

The role of U.S. Forestry cooperatives surged modestly in the 1990s and early 2000s, but waned with the recent recession. In 2012 agricultural cooperatives generated \$4 billion in revenues for their owner-members.

Lessons learned from that experience, from the ongoing success of international forestry cooperatives, and from other cooperative ventures illustrate the potential of cooperatives in forestry.

Greater use of the cooperative business structure offers opportunities to the forestry community to increase the achievement of individual goals while maximizing the benefit to the marketplace and to the forest.

## WOODWORKERS



ON-THE-JOB

Submit your stories and photos, along with a brief description, of our wood, paper and pulp members *on-the-job* to:

[mrose@iamaw.org](mailto:mrose@iamaw.org) or

[tkenealy@iamaw.org](mailto:tkenealy@iamaw.org) for our

*Wrench & Wood* newsletter.

# H.R. 2647 The Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015

Unfortunately, this year’s wildfire season like recent past wildfire seasons, promises to produce several catastrophic fires that have resulted in the tragic loss of life and property. However, in many cases it’s possible to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire through proactive, healthy forest management.

H.R. 2647, The Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015, introduced on June 4th, is a bipartisan bill that will address the growing economic and environmental threats of these wildfires. If enacted, the bill could be implemented immediately by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to dramatically improve the health and resiliency of our federal forests and rangelands. It simplifies environmental process requirements, reduces project planning times and reduces the cost of implementing forest management projects while still ensuring robust protection of the environment.

On June 11, 2015, it passed through the House Natural Resources Committee (22-15). In a letter to Congressmen Bishop, Committee Chairman and Grijalva, Committee Ranking Member, International President Buffenbarger commended the Committee of Natural Resources for favorably reporting on the bill.

H.R. 2647 passed the full House of Representatives with bipartisan support on July 9th and on July 13th it was received in the Senate, read twice before it was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

If managed wisely, America’s national forests can provide clean water, wildlife habit, recreational opportunities, and abundant domestic supplies of wood products and support thousands of jobs in the timber industry and for our wood, pulp and paper brothers and sisters.

## FIVE CAUSES OF CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRES

WHAT WILL H.R. 2647 DO TO SOLVE THEM?



H.R. 2647, *The Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015*, is a bipartisan bill that addresses the growing economic and environmental threats of catastrophic wildfire.

### LITIGATION

Collaboratives, which are citizen led groups seeking to develop publicly supported forest management decisions, are constantly at risk of unnecessary delay from frivolous lawsuits.

This bill allows expedited environmental review for collaborative projects up to 15,000 acres in size and protects projects from delays by requiring bonding for would-be litigants.



### FIRE BORROWING

When firefighting costs exceed the existing budget, the U.S. Forest Service transfers funds from vital forest management programs to pay for wildfire suppression. This practice is known as "Fire Borrowing."



This bill enables FEMA to transfer limited funds to the Forest Service when all other suppression funding has been exhausted. This creates no new mandatory programs and is still subject to appropriations and the Budget Control Act.

### FLEXIBILITY

As it stands, the Forest Service is able to reforest less than three percent of areas burned after wildfires.



This bill accelerates the removal of dead trees to pay for reforestation after large wildfires and requires that 75% of the area impacted be reforested within five years.

### SAFETY

Wildfires pose an increasing threat to large urban areas.



This bill bolsters locally-led forest management and hazardous fuel reduction projects for urban communities adjacent to wild lands.

### FOREST HEALTH

Administrative inefficiencies force Forest Service employees to spend the majority of their time on paperwork, which jeopardizes the health of our nation’s forest system.

This bill streamlines project planning timelines and gives the Forest Service flexibility to manage and maintain the health of our national forests.



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## 2015 Industrial Conference

### Reinforces Unity Across Machinists Industries

In June IAM members, leadership and staff kicked off the 2015 IAM Industrial Conference in Chicago, pledging to confront head on the challenges facing workers in the many industries the IAM represents. The conference brought together delegates from a variety of sectors, including our Energy, Natural Resources, Wood Products and Agriculture sector. “Everything is connected in the IAM,” said Buffenbarger. “One side makes the stuff the other side uses. One can’t exist alone, so it’s important we engage in a similar track to figure out how we harness the energy of our members.”

Through the break out sessions and industry-specific workgroups designed to learn the skills necessary to grow and thrive as fighting machinists, we realized even further how many commonalities Energy, Natural Resources, Wood Products and Agriculture have with each other as evidenced by the Farm Bill. This major piece of legislation affects every American. In the House, the House Agriculture Committee has jurisdiction over the Farm Bill. In the Senate, the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee has jurisdiction. Despite its name, the Farm Bill is also a food bill, a jobs bill, a trade bill, a forestry bill and so much more.



*Above: Woodworkers Chief of Staff Mike Rose listens as General Vice President Mark Blondin addresses our sector at the 2015 Industrial Conference*



## SETTING STREAM BUFFER SIZES THAT KEEP STREAMS COOL

Streamside, or riparian, buffer rules ensure streams are shaded and provide a blueprint for where to leave trees during a timber harvest. The Board of Forestry (BOF) continues working with all interests as they evaluate stream buffer sizes that keep streams cool, and balance environmental and economic outcomes. The Board last revised these streamside buffers rules in the 1990’s to further protect water quality, and included monitoring to ensure effectiveness.

In 2012, as part of an adaptive forest management approach, the Board began an analysis of streamside buffer rules based on Oregon Department of Forestry monitoring results for small and medium-sized streams where fish were. The research showed the rules fell short of the “protecting cold water” (PCW) standard. The standard means stream temperatures should not rise more than one-half degree Fahrenheit because of human activity, where salmon, steelhead, and bull trout are present.

As the BOF considers revising the current rules, it also recognizes successes, including: \$100 million voluntarily invested to restore streams and salmon habitat through Oregon’s Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, most stream water quality in forests is rated as good or excellent and, private forestlands provide some of the best Coho rearing habitat.

The BOF will review options for revising the regulations at its July meeting and may begin drafting new rules for consideration this fall. ♦