

# WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



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## REGISTER NOW!

### for the 2025 Machinists Wood, Pulp & Paper Conference in Niagara Falls, New York from September 15-19

Registration is now open for the 2025 Machinists Wood, Pulp, & Paper (MWPPC) Conference from September 15-19 at The Secena Resort & Casino in Niagara Falls, New York. This year's theme is Organizing, Educating, and Empowering.

A registration form and more information about the conference are enclosed in the conference call letter. Please complete the form and return it to the IAM Woodworkers Department, c/o Bailey Simonds at 9000 Machinists Place, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772, or email to [bsimonds@iamaw.org](mailto:bsimonds@iamaw.org).

The conference registration fee will be \$125 per delegate and \$75 for each guest and can be paid upon arrival at the conference. This fee will help defray the cost of the Machinists Wood, Pulp & Paper Council Conference.

Newly appointed MWPPC President Matt Murdaugh will chair this meeting and direct the busy agenda. Council business will include Machinists Wood, Pulp & Paper Council Officer elections for Vice President and Conductor Sentinel, a host of great speakers, and a strong focus on organizing, educating, and empowering. Some of the highlights at the Conference will be a Guide Dogs of America/Tender Loving Canines Fundraising Event.

If you have any questions about this conference, please contact Woodworkers Department Chief of Staff Bob Walls at 301-967-4555.

## Chris Wagoner Leadership Grant Recipient

The delegates of the 2024 Convention passed a resolution creating the Chris Wagoner Leadership Grant. The Grant reimburses a selected Local from each Territory for all costs associated with sending a member through the entire Leadership program at the Winpisinger Center.

One of this year's Awardees is our own Local W38 from the Western Territory. Local W38 is a small Local in Shelton, WA.

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## BWI Trade Union Pre-COP 30 Summit and Amazon Rainforest Mission



On March 24th, Woodworkers Chief of Staff Bob Walls, began his journey to South America with an arrival in Brasilia, Brazil on Tuesday, March 25th. The following day Brother Walls and the rest of the team jumped straight into action with a full schedule of pre-COP 30 meetings.

On Thursday evening, March 27, the delegation took a night flight to Macapá, in the State of Amapá. The next morning Brother Walls met with Oceias Nascimento, President of SINTRACONVAJ, and Claudio, the Vice President. Walls visited the Labor Inspectorate Generals and the Employment Office, followed by a tour of the illegal lumber trade in Macapá. During the visit, Walls engaged with sawmill workers and explored retail locations involved in the trade.



Woodworkers Chief of Staff,  
Bob Walls

Saturday morning marked the beginning of Walls journey deep into the Amazon Forests, where he visited TW Forests. Management shared their commitment to sustainability, showcasing their triple certification (FSC, PEFC, and Amapá State) and emphasizing their focus on worker safety health. Walls toured their production sites and observed how their forest products are made.

Later, Walls and the crew traveled further into the forest, met with an Indigenous family, and visited a logging site. There, a manager guided them through an area that had been logged five years prior, highlighting the forest's natural regeneration. He also provided insights into the specific logging methods used at the site.

The visit offered a powerful, first-hand look at both the challenges and the progress being made in sustainable forestry and labor practices in the Amazon region.





# The Machinists Wood, Pulp and Paper Council's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Chillin' & Grillin' Virtual BBQ Competition for Guide Dogs of America & Tender Loving Canines !

**IT'S ALMOST TIME—REGISTRATION coming SOON** for our 6th Annual Machinists Wood, Pulp and Paper Council (MWPPC) Virtual Chillin' & Grillin' BBQ Competition being held on Saturday, August 16th!

The event will benefit the IAM's favorite charity, Guide Dogs of America | Tender Loving Canines (GDA/TLC.) All IAM members are welcome to compete for the title of best cooks!

**[Watch and share the promotional video here.](#)**

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## Wagoner Grant, from page 1

They represent members working for Green Diamond Resource Co, the County of Mason, and the City of Shelton and have about 70 members. Their limited funds have kept them from being able to send any members to the W3 Center for over four years.

After being selected as a Grant recipient, the Local voted to send Sister Kristine Howard, who will be attending Leadership II in September of this year. Sister Howard is a 10-year member of the W38 Executive Board as a Trustee and for 9 years has been the Shop Steward for the City of Shelton. Sister Howard said "I hope this opportunity gives me the knowledge to bring something useful back to our members and to help our Local grow." District W24 Business Representative Larry Beckett said, "I'm proud of Local W38 for receiving this Grant. They are going through a leadership transition, and this training will be a big help in developing the skills they need to be successful."

Winpisinger Center Director Mary McHugh said of the Grant program "nobody believed in the importance of education for the IAM, the labor movement, and working people more than Chris Wagoner. He was especially dedicated to opening up doors and taking down barriers to education for all members. The Chris Wagoner Memorial Leadership Grant program does just that - it gives leadership training resources to IAM Locals which might otherwise not be able to take advantage of W3 Center leadership training. This is a real and appropriate living memorial to Chris and his work."

Woodworker International Representative Billy Barnwell said, "The Chris Wagoner Leadership Grant is a perfect opportunity for Woodworker Locals, many of whom struggle with the exact conditions this program seeks to alleviate." Applications for next year's Grant are open now and can be found at W3iam.org in the "About" section. Applications must be received by November 1, 2025 to be considered for 2026 Awards.

## BIO-CORNER



Machinists Wood, Pulp & Paper Council  
President, Matt Murdaugh

Matt Murdaugh began his journey as a Machinist in November 2003 with Jacksonville Transit Authority (JTA) in Jacksonville Florida, through Local 759. Over the following 15 years, he worked across every division of JTA—including the Skyway monorail, fixed route buses, paratransit, and building maintenance—serving as a Lead Technician for most of that time.

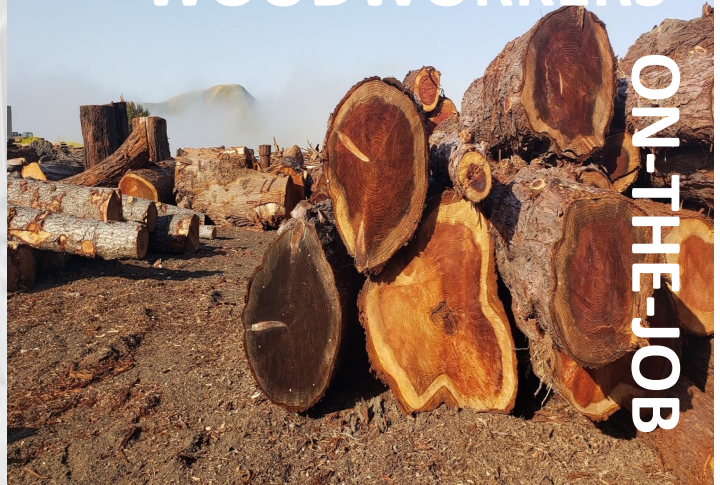
Matt's commitment to the union is evident in the many leadership roles he has held within the IAM. His services include, steward (2 years), chief steward (4 years), Local Vice President (5 years), Local President (1 year), District 112 Business Representative (2.5 years), President/DBR of District 112/243 (almost 4 years), Vice President of MWPPC (2 years), Elected to 4-year term as President/DBR of District 243 beginning January 2025, President of MWPPC (almost 6 months now), plus numerous delegate roles across councils, districts, and state levels.

Outside of his union work, Matt has been married to his high school sweetheart, Carolyn, for 23 years. Together, they have a daughter, Victoria, who is 23. Matt also holds a degree in Electronics Engineering.

In his free time, Matt enjoys union education efforts in Right to Work states, traveling the world (a hobby encouraged by his wife), and relaxing with some fishing whenever he gets the chance.

## WOODWORKERS

ON-THE-JOB



### Baltimore Tree Keepers

The Baltimore Tree Keepers program is an initiative of the City of Baltimore dedicated to increasing the city's tree canopy. Managed by the Forestry Division of the Department of Recreation and Parks, Tree Baltimore collaborates with city, state, and federal agencies, nonprofits, neighborhood groups, and residents to plant and care for trees throughout Baltimore.

By joining the program, residents contribute to a healthier, more sustainable urban canopy while becoming part of a growing network of dedicated tree advocates.

Since its inception in 2013, more than 1,100 people have participated in Tree Keepers training, gaining essential tree care skills that directly benefit Baltimore's urban canopy. These volunteers aren't just tree enthusiasts—they're highly trained in tree planting, identification, and maintenance, including pruning techniques that rival those of some professional arborists.



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[www.golam.org/index.php/headquarters/departments/woodworkers](http://www.golam.org/index.php/headquarters/departments/woodworkers)

**Submit your wood, pulp & paper stories and photos to: [bslmonds@iamaw.org](mailto:bslmonds@iamaw.org) for publication in our Wrench & Wood Newsletter.**