

# SAWDUST CITY NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF MCDONOUGH MANUFACTURING

WINTER 2011

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## Superior Hardwoods of Ohio

Superior Hardwoods of Ohio, Inc, was founded in 1971 and has grown into the largest green lumber producing company in the state of Ohio. Total company annual production is over 50 million board feet. The company also owns over 3,500 acres of timberland which are in co-op with the Ohio Div. of Wildlife for hunting. They saw primarily red oak, white oak and poplar but also some hard maple and cherry at certain locations.

Superior Hardwoods has four operations each with bandsaw headrigs and linebars located in McArthur, Cambridge, Barlow and Wellston, Ohio which also serves as its headquarters. Their facilities are positioned amongst the forestlands of eastern and southern Ohio enabling them to serve local, interstate, and international customers via the extensive interstate road and rail systems of this region.

Emmett Conway was raised in McArthur with sawdust in his veins as his father, Emmett Sr., was a forester and superintendent of the D. B. Frampton Company, Ohio's first large stationary sawmill. Graduating from Ohio University with a degree in botany in 1971, he began a logging com-



Wellston, Ohio, new McDonough round way linebar

pany that expanded in 1974 to also include a portable sawmill. Emmett's love for sawmilling grew resulting in the construction of Conway Lumber in McArthur, OH in 1978. His business continued to grow, leading to the acquisition of a sawmill in Wellston, OH in 1982. At that time he incorporated as Superior Hardwoods of Ohio. His continued passion for sawmilling and

business growth led to the purchase of the Cambridge, OH facility in 1985. With the big dive in lumber prices and hardship for a lot of sawmilling companies around the country, Emmett also saw the opportunity in 2009. In a time when a lot of people were simply surviving, he chose to expand with the acquisition of a sawmill in Barlow,

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## SUPERIOR HARDWOODS OF OHIO

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OH. As primarily a producer of green lumber, this move opened new doors for Superior Hardwoods with its 320,000 board feet of kiln capacity. "The dry kilns have given us added markets as well as added value, flexibility and diversity" says Emmett.

Emmett Conway doesn't really see himself as the boss. "I am now a coach. I enjoy going to my various operations and not being the boss but coaching my employees on how to be successful in life" he says, "but every now and then, when they don't listen, I do have to put my boss hat

back on." Continuing with his desire of sawmilling are his two sons, Will & Adam, both full time members of the "team he coaches."

"Superior Hardwoods of Ohio has always had one constant philosophy" according to Emmett Conway, "every year, put money back into the company. A philosophy that continued with their latest equipment upgrade in June of 2010. The Wellston Facility received a new McDonough 2 press roll round way linebar. It replaced a 1973 McDonough linebar that they retired after 37 years of operating at a double shift production level most of the time. The linebar project also included a new McDonough infeed table, programmable networks and a McDonough operator's cab. "The decision to purchase another McDonough was easy," says Emmett, "We put a lot of lumber through the old McDonough linebar, running two shifts here at Wellston the majority of the last 35 years. McDonough machines work, they are proven."

Superior Hardwoods believes in being involved and supporting the industry. All locations are members of the Ohio Forestry Association and the National Hardwood Lumber Association. Emmett is past president of OFA and still serves as co-chair of the OFA's "The Paul Bunyan Show." "In my spare time," he says with a chuckle, "I enjoy golfing and spending time with my family."



McArthur, Ohio, McDonough Resaw

## Parts & Service



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## UPCOMING SHOWS

**LAKE STATE  
LUMBER ASSOCIATION**  
Winter Meeting  
January 20-21, 2011  
Green Bay, WI

**INDIANA HARDWOOD  
LUMBERMEN'S ASSOCIATION**  
Annual Convention  
February 9-10, 2011  
Indianapolis, IN

**HARDWOOD MANUFACTURER'S  
ASSOCIATION**  
Annual Convention  
March 14-16  
Charleston, SC

## MAINTENANCE TIP: Maintaining Linear Edger Performance

The key to linear edger performance can be taken right from the machine's name, in that everything needs to run on a straight line or in a "linear" fashion. While this is arguably the simplest way to handle the optimized edging process, eliminating all of the starting/stopping, grabbing and positioning that takes place between the scanning and sawing operations of a transverse edger system, linear edger users still need to keep a close eye on their edger system in order to keep things working properly. This is of course in an effort to realize the highest possible recovery of yield and value that their edging system can provide.

In particular, mills should pay very close attention to:

- Edger infeed belt tracking, making sure that the belt tracks perfectly parallel to the edger system centerline.
- There are no humps or twists in the belt path that will cause the board to "walk" or "spin" on the surface of the belt.
- Transition areas need to be smooth and level, in particular those:
  - Through the scan zone
  - Between the infeed belt and the edger feed system.



### **Saw calibration to the transfer system.**

After transfer systems are aligned then saw entry points that are consistent with those planned by the optimizer are established by:

- Calibrating one saw (usually the center saw) to the entry points desired by the optimizer.
- Each of the remaining saws are then calibrated by sawing more lumber and comparing the sawn piece width to the target piece width.

See our website for a more detailed explanation on Maintaining your Linear Edger:

[www.mcdonough-mfg.com/Newsletters.htm](http://www.mcdonough-mfg.com/Newsletters.htm)

If you need any help with this or any other type edger system maintenance, please don't hesitate to call McDonough to schedule an appointment.

If you have any maintenance tips to share or would like one answered, write to:  
[mcdonough@mcdonough-mfg.com](mailto:mcdonough@mcdonough-mfg.com)

## Used equipment currently in stock at McDonough:

**McDonough 3 Knee 36" opening Linear Carriage** with UHMW Cant Kickers and Pantograph. Originally shipped in 1998. Additional features can be customized on this Carriage to fit your exact needs, billed on a time and material basis.

### **7-8A Band Headrig**

Built in 1985, Right Hand, Air Strain, 7' diameter wheels 13" wide for a 14" wide x 47' long sawblade, motorized top wheel left, motorized top guide lift, McDonough pressure guide system, slat bed table with electric drive, wheel guard. Available rebuilt with a 1 year warranty.

**For More Information, please contact Sales & Service Manager Peter McCarty (715) 834-7755**

## McDonough Manufacturing Reports on Recent Activity

**High Country Lumber** in Wilkesboro, NC has ordered a lineal edger infeed table for their existing Valley Machine lineal edger. The McDonough design offers a smoother feeding to the edger increasing recovery compared to the old one. The infeed table is scheduled for a February delivery and will be installed in the mill right away. This adds High Country Lumber to the list of nine Valley Machine edgers that McDonough is currently servicing.

**Pike Lumber Company's** new mill in Milan, IN started up the first week of January. The new mill includes a McDonough 6' headrig as well as McDonough's seventh edger system. This edger system features McDonough's **ValueMax** system which allows an operator assisted visual defect upgrade of the optimizer's solution and is Pike Lumber's second edger system of this kind.

**Rex Lumber Company's** new tandem arbor lineal edger, for their new 20' Southern Yellow Pine facility in Brookhaven, MS, tested in the shop in early January and shipped to the customer. This innovative machine design features two skewing saw boxes in one machine center. Sold to perform up to 50 pieces per minutes, once operating this will be one of, if not the, fastest edger in the world.

The machine is scheduled to be commissioned the first week of March. This will be McDonough's eighth edger product since they started making edgers just three years ago.

**D.G. Limited of Beauce, Quebec, Canada** will be receiving a McDonough 54" horizontal resaw in February. Sold by Akhurst Machinery, the horizontal is a new design for McDonough as the bandmill will be installed directly behind a moulder and tilt up to 15 degrees from horizontal. McDonough has a long history of making 54" vertical resaws with tilting feed rollers which allow customers to make beveled boards to be used for house siding. But a machine installed directly behind the moulder will reduce the need to have a separate machine setup and the surrounding material handling equipment required for the operation as well as an additional operator. The machine will start up soon after it is received.

*For more information on McDonough Manufacturing's custom line of sawmill machinery, please call  
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