



CELEBRATING THREE YEARS OF "LUMBER 411"

BY JEFF EASTERLING

CAN YOU BELIEVE it's been three years???

In 2019, we had the idea for a regular educational column designed to share information about eastern white pine, SPFs, and other species represented by the members of the Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association (NELMA). The content would be informative, educational, and even a little fun, and would hopefully provide new items of interest to the readers of this fine magazine.

Three years and 35 columns later (the one you're reading is 36), we've had the opportunity to write about some fascinating topics, and to learn quite a bit along the way.

A few of the topics we've covered:

- Educating the next generation;
- Norway spruce;
- SPFs vs. SPF;
- eastern white pine;
- lumber grading and testing;
- Balsam fir;
- sustainability and forestry;
- a series on how to read knots;
- the lumber industry's recovery post-pandemic;
- biophilia;

- eastern spruce;
- geographically relevant lumber;
- choosing real wood over the "wood look;"
- multiple case studies;
- spring DIY wood tips;
- why homeowners should choose wood;
- a list of the hundreds of things made from wood products;
- information on NELMA's free AEC Daily class on eastern white pine;
- eastern hemlock;
- tamarack;
- a grading glossary;
- the story behind the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree;
- heat treatment and why it matters;
- NELMA's White Pine Monographs;
- the NELMA jobs program;
- how to read a grade stamp;
- five questions with various industry experts;
- how to achieve the rustic farmhouse look;
- and the history of the King's Broad Arrow.

Now that we have three years' worth of columns, what to do with them? Glad you asked! We've collect-

ed all of them into one location on the new NELMA website, www.nelma.org. Go to the main website, click on the Retailer tab at the top, and you'll see them listed under the "Lumber 411" heading in the drop-down menu.

We'll continue to build out this resource for you, the lumber dealer, by adding each column after it's published in *BPD*. Next time you visit the page, be sure to bookmark it for easy access in the future.

As we continue into our fourth year of providing lumber-related news and information, let us know your thoughts. What would you like to learn more about? How could we help you sell more lumber?

Reach out to us at info@nelma.org. We look forward to hearing from you.



JEFF EASTERLING

Jeff Easterling is president of Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association, Cumberland Center, Me. Reach him at info@nelma.org.