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LUMBRA HARDWOODS INC. RECOGNIZED OUTSTANDING SAWMILL OPERATOR BY THE NORTHEASTERN LOGGERS' ASSOCIATION

OLD FORGE, NY -- On May 2, 2024, the Northeastern Loggers' Association (NELA) presented Lumbra Hardwoods Inc. with its Outstanding Sawmill Operator Award for 2023 at the organization's annual Loggers' Banquet in Burlington, Vermont.

Lumbra Hardwoods Inc., formerly known as Oscar & Reuben Lumbra, Inc., was established in 1952 by father and son partners, Oscar Lumbra and Reuben Lumbra. The original mill was in Enosburg Falls, Vermont and moved to Milo, Maine in 1960 to take advantage of the hardwood log supply. The sawmill operation continues as a family business managed by Benny and Stephen Lumbra, Reuben's sons.

Lumbra Hardwoods produces approximately 7.5 million feet of native Maine hardwoods a year. They process hard maple, yellow birch, soft maple, ash, oak, and basswood used to make cabinets, flooring, furniture, musical instruments, and more. Pulp chips, bark, and sawdust are marketed to paper companies, pellet mills, and farmers in the area; nothing goes to waste.

Lumbra has a strong focus on safety and efficiency, and they have a reputation as a quality employer and community leader. The company's business model is designed to ensure consistency and survivability rather than to maximize profits.

The company constantly adapts to changes in technology and improvements in equipment, and its skilled workers keep its large modern sawmill in Milo operating efficiently and safely. When Lumbra adds new technology, it is not to replace employees, but to help them do their jobs better

and more efficiently. The company actively solicits input from employees to decide which changes to make and how best to improve operations.

Lumbra is also known for quickly adjusting log prices according to the lumber market and keeping log suppliers up to date about market changes on a regular basis.

President and Vice President Benny and Stephen Lumbra support logger training. They have also created a family-friendly company culture with good benefits and often work hand in hand on the floor with their people and have minimal turnover.

NELA is honored to present Lumbra Hardwoods with this award as an exceptional manufacturer of hardwood lumber.

The Northeastern Loggers' Association, Inc. (NELA) was founded in 1952 and is headquartered in Old Forge, New York. The organization has nearly 2,000 members in the region from Maine to Minnesota and Missouri to Maryland. NELA publishes the monthly magazine *The Northern Logger & Timber Processor* and hosts the annual Northeastern Forest Products Equipment Exposition (Loggers' Expo). NELA hosts the Annual Awards Banquet every year on the evening prior to the opening of its annual Loggers' Expo.

NELA serves its membership and the public by advocating for the wise stewardship of our forest resources. The organization develops programs that strengthen the forest products community and help members produce products to meet the needs of the American people.

Learn more about NELA at www.northernlogger.com

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