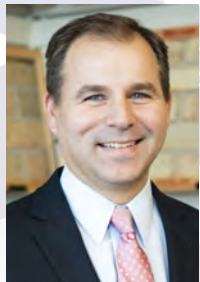


THE BELDEN NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



One of the best parts of being in the brick industry is teaching others about what we do, whether it's welcoming someone new to brickmaking for a tour of our plants or educating the students at The Belden Brick Sales School on how we differentiate ourselves from our competitors. Often, one of the most surprising looks we get from people is when we talk about the research and development we do. For many people, a brick is a brick, so how can someone improve upon what's been done for thousands of years? After explaining how we conduct research to make the same brick more efficiently, we get into how we test and adapt the same raw materials we've always used to fit into current design trends in terms of colors, sizes, and textures. Most often, the looks on their faces change from surprise to curiosity. It is with great pleasure to tell you about some of the things we are working on so that The Belden Brick Company remains curious and relevant in the modern marketplace.

First off, let me mention an exciting evolution in our glazed and clay coated product lines. The demand for these products has been growing over the last couple of years, and we've mainly been making our glazed coating at Plant 6 with a double-fired process and manufacturing the clay coated brick at Plant 8 in velour textures only. With our recent investment in equipment at Plant 8 to grind our raw material even finer, we can now offer single-fired glazed production and a smooth texture clay coated option from Plant 8. This development will help eliminate the possibility of imperfections and ensure a smoother finish on the face of the brick. The glazed and clay coated products from Plant 8 are manufactured with an eased edge only, while Plant 6 will continue to produce some double-fired glazed colors with a square edge.

Secondly, we have begun a process to implement automation equipment at Plant 4 to ramp up production rates and increase productivity. It is with mixed emotions that we are going through this process. Plant 4 still holds much of our history and originality, and it's a unique opportunity for visitors to experience the manual intensity of the brickmaking process. We have gone through extensive testing to ensure the new approach using robotic settings in the factory and forklift loading and unloading of the kilns will produce the same unique colors that Plant 4 has provided for decades, maintaining The Belden Brick Company's values and traditions.

Finally, I would like to announce that we have partnered with Cerámicas Mora of Spain to begin distributing their brick out of Sugarcreek. They utilize a method to manufacture their thin brick that does not require cutting from a full bed unit. We plan on stocking a range of colors from their new thin brick line and a limited selection of their full bed brick. We are leveraging their research and development efforts to help supplement the full range of products we continue to offer at Plant 5. Other information on this announcement is forthcoming.

As always, thank you for partnering with The Belden Brick Company. We will continue to find ways to stay ahead of the market and relevant for the next 138 years.

Sincerely,

Bradley H. Belden
President, The Belden Brick Company



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Closed for the July 4th Holiday
Tuesday, July 4, 2023

Closed for the Labor Day Holiday
Monday, September 4, 2023

The Belden Brick Company

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Canton, Ohio 44702

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Distributor Sales Training Class

The Belden Brick Company once again hosted our Distributor Sales Training Class. This year we spent two days in Sugarcreek, Ohio visiting our plants and learning the production process. Classroom sessions gave students insight into how to sell Belden products and the history of our company. Thank you for taking the time to let us get to know you better and we wish you well in your brick career.



Graduates: Front row - Miranda Barbee, Sheri Carter, Liz Ray, Heather Moore, Madeline Baker, Gunnar Stanford, Griffin Vande Zande, Kate Blankenship, Dan Wollenberg, Amanda Word, Melissa Haertling, Nick Schreder

Back Row - Bradley Belden, Sean Snider, Jacob Ruiz, Ryan Clifford, Kate Roper, Travis Irvin, Shane Huempfer, Steve Larson, Scott Smith, Cheri Hubert, Aaron Kincade, Nolyn White, Kristin Jackson, Ted Woods, Steele Crissman, Kerby Wilcox

Not pictured: Rhonda Bailey

Distributor Spotlight

LURVEY LANDSCAPE SUPPLY AND GARDEN

Our History

The late 1920s marked the beginning of what is now Lurvey, when the Ahrens family started a farm and market in Des Plaines, IL.



The whole Ahrens family, including daughter Marion, worked hard on the farm and in the market to yield and sell quality products. In 1938, Ahrens Market soon became Lindemann's Garden Center.

Decades later, in 1978, Lyle Lurvey, with sons, Greg and Mark, changed the focus of their farm from dairy to growing sod and turf. In 1985, Mark Lurvey made a sales call to Ray Lindemann to see if he would be interested in purchasing Lurvey sod. Ray wasn't interested in buying sod, but he was interested in selling the Garden Center.

Thinking this would be an opportunity for a quality investment, Greg and Mark Lurvey bought Lindemann's Garden Center in 1986 and, by 1991, had transformed it into Lurvey's Garden Center. Since then, Lurvey has expanded to four landscape supply locations around the Chicagoland area, along with the Home and Garden Center in Des Plaines, IL, and the Sod Farm in Whitewater, WI.

The vast product and service offerings, enhanced by the interaction between the Sod Farm, Landscape Supply, and Garden Center, proves our capacity to supply virtually all of your landscape material needs.

They strive to be a convenient one-stop supplier and invaluable partner to our customers by offering the largest variety and highest quality plant and hardscape material in Chicago.

LURVEY TODAY

Lurvey Home & Garden

The new Lurvey Center in Des Plaines, Illinois provides a destination to browse new and unique home and garden décor and traditional garden essentials. This along with 5 other locations make Lurvey what it is today

The Company We Keep

Chicagoland's best Landscape Professionals partner with Lurvey for the quality, selection, and quantities a professional needs for any size project. In fact, over 6,000 professional landscapers, landscape architects, designers, builders, architects, facility managers, municipalities, park districts, and more have partnered with Lurvey.

Belden Materials

We have been partners with Belden since 2016. We appreciate Belden's clay pavers because the "color is the paver and the paver is the color". They are made and fired right from the clay color that comes from the earth. The color is essentially permanent which is terrific for beauty and longevity. Consequently, sealer never needs to be applied to maintain color and it is never needed as an attempt to restore color as color fading is a non-issue.

We also appreciate how well the rich and charming aesthetic of natural clay pavers works hand in hand with natural stone. Combining hardscape designs with stone and clay is a natural fit. Clay pavers work well with bluestone and allow for creative horizontal applications and also complement virtually every type of natural stone step, wall, and building stone when used for patios and driveways.

The below photos reveal how well clay paving brick naturally blends with a variety of natural stone materials. This helps create designs that are truly timeless and absolutely beautiful!

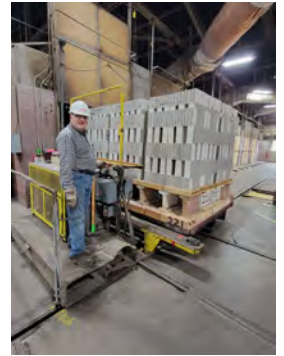


This is one of our Belden favorites. This application reveals the timeless charm of the 760 Paver as it naturally blends in with the home's landscape and architecture. The driveway application also reveals the longevity of the color and durability of the brick as this photo was taken many years after the installation. (Information courtesy of Lurvey Landscape and Garden)

2023 Retirees

Bill Stevens

Captain Bill Stevens of the Plant 6 Enterprise has voyaged into The Final Frontier of the Retirement Galaxy. Bill completed his mission on April 8 with his last working day on April 6, 2023. As a young cadet Bill entered his initial service from 1979 to 1981 at Plant 8 while operating at warp speed as a lift truck operator. For a short time, Bill jumped ship to be the sound man for his talented singing wife (Kathy). They hit the road and gave it a whirl into the undiscovered frontier of entertainment. After his search for Spock was done, Bill re-enlisted in the Belden Academy on April 5, 1983, at Plant 9 working under then Superintendent Bud Keffer. Bill worked there for 9 months then Teleported to Plant 6 where Bill took on the trades of hacking brick, and extrusion operator to eventually land in the Kiln Department. Bill helped us keep the Lithium Crystals burning, giving it all she's got, until the present day. In the last several years Bill became the Lead kiln Fireman. His voyage has been enjoyable and as we all know the challenges of the brick world taking on Klingon Warriors at every turn. Bill set his phasers to stun and was one of our most dependable workers to date. Covering for call-offs, filling in all different shifts for his co-workers, and helping with kiln wrecks at all hours of any day or night. We know that those kiln wrecks are "The Wrath of Kahn". On Thursday, April 6th Plant 6 served Cupcakes in the lunchroom, I Bill took his final voyage around the Company with a visit to the Starship Command in the Canton Office while enjoying some lunch on the Boss. The Entire Plant 6 Enterprise crew along with Uhura, Spock, Kirk, Sulu, Scottie, and Bones Thank You, Captain Bill for your great service and for being a reliable co-worker to The Belden Brick Company.



Our Friend, Don't Grieve, it is illogical. The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few. Live Long and Prosper.....

Wes Sima

After 29 years of service to The Belden Brick Company, Wes Sima decided to retire this past March. We would like to thank Wes for his dedicated service to Belden Brick and we will miss his experience and expertise in our Northeast, OH, Western, PA and WV markets. We wish Wes the best in his retirement and hope that he is able to enjoy some travel time with friends and family. Thank you Wes for your commitment to Belden Brick and the Belden Family wishes you a long and enjoyable retirement.



Tom Brown

Tom's Mother and Thelma Keffer (Bud Keffer's wife) were next door neighbors. Thelma asked his mother if any of her boys were looking for work. Her husband, Bud Keffer, was foreman at Plant 9 and was looking for workers. Tom decided to go next door and talk to Bud about working at Plant 9. He was hired on October 3, 1977. Starting out as a brick sorter then ending up as a machine operator in the production part of the Plant.

Moving onto a new Plant 2 in 1999, he started out as a pug mill operator. Later taking a position in the Grinding plant as Operator and floor maintenance. Tom retired from the position of Production Supervisor.

Over the years he and his wife Debra raised two girls. Both girls actually worked for the Belden Brick Co. Amy was a shipping Clerk at Plant 8. Jenn is a shipping Clerk at Plant 6.



Tom said he has met several people that he will always call my friends. He will stop back in to visit, but sooner or later I will walk into the plant and there will be new faces.

Jeff Graham

Plant 2 Customer Service Rep, Jeff Graham, has decided to retire after 38 years of service to The Belden Brick Company to enjoy time with his family and friends. We thank Jeff for his years of service and loyalty to our company and products.



Promotions

Tom Smith

Please congratulate Tom Smith for being promoted to Plant 3 Assistant Superintendent. Tom joined Belden Brick in 1999, and has been Plant 3's Drawing & Packaging Supervisor since 2016.

Jim Piteo

We would like to welcome Jim Piteo to the sales group. While Jim will still be working as Paving Products Manager he will take over Wes's accounts for the Northeast Ohio, Western, PA and West Virginia territory. We're sure Jim will be looking to the rest of the sales team to pick up his efforts on the paving side by educating our distributors, contractors, and architects on the benefits of clay pavers and all the opportunities and products we offer in clay paving.

We welcome Jim to the RSM Group and look forward to further contributions from you to the team. Jim has a great amount of experience previously working on the distributor side with the good guys and with the enemy in the concrete world. We look forward to your contributions to the group Jim!

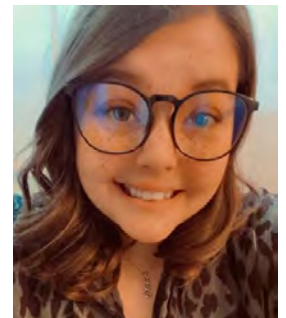


Sean Mahaffey

Sean Mahaffey has been promoted to Plant 4 Assistant Superintendent. Sean joined Belden Brick in 2012, and has been Plant 8's Production Supervisor since January 2021. While Plant 8 will be sad to see Sean transition to Plant 4, Sean will help Plant 4 prepare for the next stage of its long life, as we automate the factory later this year. Congratulations Sean.

Brittany Spears

We'd like to inform everyone that Brittany Spears now takes on the duties for Plant 4 Customer Service and Production Scheduler along with her continued role in Customer Service at Plant 5 as well. Brittany can be reached through the company main line at 330-456-0031 Ext 1149 or by email at brittany.spears@beldenbrick.com.



Frank Alleshouse

We would like to inform you that Frank Alleshouse is the new Customer Service Representative for Plant 2. We welcome Frank in his new role at Plant 2. We ask that you have patience with us as Frank takes on these new responsibilities and learns the intricacies of the Plant product line and scheduling.



Natalie Stan

We would like to announce that Natalie Stan will be our new Clay Coat and Glazed Brick Product Coordinator. If you are working on a project that involves custom clay coats and or custom glazed brick we ask that you work with Natalie on these jobs so that she can coordinate with our glaze team and gather the appropriate information to assist you with quick and accurate information on any trials and production related to your order. Natalie will act in a similar fashion to Tabitha in our Shapes Department. Natalie will have a form that needs to be completed with accurate information for us to quote lead times and pricing on custom glazed and clay coated brick. We believe this process will help streamline projects and allow our plant personnel to use their time more productively and provide you the customer with quicker and more accurate information. Ordering stock colors from our price list can still be done through the traditional process with Plant Customer Service Reps. We welcome Natalie to the glaze and clay coat department and she will still have her duties in the marketing and technical information services area as well.

State of the Company

In the annual State of the Company address, Bob Belden, Chairman & CEO of The Belden Brick Company, reports to the employees on the expected final results of 2022, looks ahead to the prospects for the next calendar year, advises of planned changes to compensation and benefits, and hands out service award recognitions to employees with service anniversaries in 5-year increments. Beginning the day at Plant 5, he visits every facility in Sugar Creek and closes the day at Central Maintenance.



Bill Ramey – Dallas Cowboy No. 1 Fan Long time employee



After the State of the Company address at Plant 6 this past year, Bob Belden reflected on Bill's 51 years of full-time employment. He mentioned that these years preceded two years of part-time work. That part time work was with the Dallas Cowboys, Bill's favorite team. You can see Bill is wearing his Dallas Cowboys' hardhat here. Bill is a fireman at Plant 6. Thank you Bill!

2023 BIA Lifetime Achievement Award

The BIA Executive Committee announced that Tim Pedigo is the recipient of the 2023 BIA Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is designed to honor outstanding individuals who have – for a minimum of 25 years – given substantially of themselves throughout their career to the advancement and betterment of the clay brick industry.

Tim Pedigo began his career more than 40 years ago. One of his first jobs in construction was as a mason's apprentice; also, he worked as a concrete dispatcher for a local Ready-Mix Company. But the start of his career as a seller of clay brick to the market began in 1980 with Franklin Brick Company, Nashville, TN. That is where he started promoting brick to the local architectural community with a focus on the commercial market. To date, he has successfully led the expansion of sales for three brick distribution companies, Franklin Brick Company, Brown's Concrete and Block Company, and Alley-Cassetty Brick.

Since 1997 and currently, Tim is the Vice President of Commercial Marketing and Sales at Alley-Cassetty Brick Company, Nashville, TN. In his role as Vice President, he has led the expansion of the company's Storefronts into the surrounding Tennessee states of Kentucky and Georgia. During his career, he has worked with 95% of the brick manufacturers in business today.

Tim has also given his time back to the industry not only with BIA (and NABD) by serving as a committee member and committee chairs, but also through his local support of AIA and numerous local construction groups.

Tim's impact on the industry goes beyond the significant number of committees of which he has been a member and the positions held by the BIA. After more than 40 years in this business, Tim still has passion and enthusiasm that are simply remarkable. Tim received his Lifetime Achievement Award during the Awards Dinner at the BIA Spring Meetings in Charleston, South Carolina. (Information courtesy of BIA)



Bricklayer 500

For the past 10 years, The Belden Brick Company has been a proud sponsor of The Spec Mix Bricklayer 500. The competition is held in Las Vegas, Nevada as part of the World of Concrete Show. The competition was broadcast on Live Webstream and attended by thousands in person to watch this prestigious competition. Twenty-four bricklayers and tenders compete from all over North America. This year, the winning bricklayer, Michael Schuld, and his tender, Arron Kowalski laid 759 bricks in one hour; earning them the title of "World's Best Bricklayer."



Pictured Above: Your Regional Sales Managers:

Tate Marks, Jim Piteo, Laura Frisella-Waddell, Ron Green, Brian Fenner, and Eric Zelis

They are standing by our wall created specially for the Bricklayer 500, by Tabitha Aleshouse, the Shapes Department, and several plants.