



2024 Lumber Dealers Association of Connecticut Lumber Person of the Year

Donald Carfi
Seven D Wholesale

Don Carfi's journey in the lumber and building materials industry is a testament to passion, perseverance, and dedication. His career began with an unexpected opportunity when he applied for a Sales Trainee position at Georgia Pacific, despite having no prior knowledge of the building products industry. His intrigue with the role led him to an enriching 14-year tenure at Georgia Pacific, where he immersed himself in every aspect of the distribution process—from warehouse operations to delivery logistics. This comprehensive experience cemented his understanding and appreciation of the industry's intricacies and the hard work of its people.

Following a significant restructuring at Georgia Pacific, Don transitioned to Seven D Wholesale, where he has excelled for over 29 years. His extensive career reflects not only his commitment to the industry but also his ability to adapt and thrive through change. Don's contributions extend beyond his professional achievements. He has actively engaged with various industry associations, including the LDAC, the NRLA Convention Committee, and recently, the HBRA of Central CT. His involvement highlights his dedication to fostering growth and collaboration within the industry.

A notable story from Don's career illustrates his deep commitment to learning and development. During his onboarding at Georgia Pacific, he worked across all areas of the distribution center. His experience in the warehouse and on delivery routes, though initially overwhelming, ultimately enriched his understanding of the business and reinforced the importance of every role within the organization. Don's professional milestones and achievements reflect his industry impact. His tenure at Seven D Wholesale and his active roles in professional organizations underscore his influential presence in the field. His education and certifications, although not detailed here, complement his extensive experience and dedication.

On a personal note, Don's life is marked by meaningful relationships and diverse interests. He met his partner, Amy, 16 years ago during a dealer event, and their shared journey has led to a blended family they cherish deeply. Don takes pride in his children and grandchildren, enjoying their company as much as possible. His family includes his daughter Kelli, son-in-law Nick, and granddaughter Margot in Boston, his son Sean and his partner Alex in Brooklyn, Amy's daughter Maggie in Manhattan, and her son Max with his partner Morgan in Charlotte, NC.

Outside of work, Don is an active individual who enjoys biking, golf, tennis, gardening, and traveling. His past involvement in coaching youth sports and volunteering for organizations such as Special Olympics and Big Brothers Big Sisters of CT underscores his commitment to giving back to the community.

Don's life philosophy is shaped by the influence of his friend and mentor, Brian Reiff. Their professional rivalry turned friendship taught Don valuable lessons in leadership, competitive spirit, and the importance of seeking the best in others. Brian's example continues to inspire Don's personal and professional growth.

Don Carfi's story is a blend of professional success, community involvement, and personal fulfillment. His journey exemplifies the qualities celebrated by the Lumber Person of the Year award—making significant contributions to the industry, being a reputable member, and giving back to the community. His passion for his work and the people he works with is a testament to a career well-lived and a life well-shared.