



Coram Materials: Making the move from dry land to dredge

by Kelly Gates

Coram Materials Corp. was founded in the 1960s as a trucking company that transported sand and gravel from local quarries and sand pits to construction customers throughout Long Island and New York City. During the next two decades, the company

processed bank-run materials at its own property on Long Island and in 1989, the current location in Miller Place, NY, was purchased and the business has been operating from there ever since.

"We're just finishing up our dry land resources here after almost 20 years,"

said Mike Vigliarolo, vice president for Coram. "In 2002 we bought an 8-yard dredge from Supreme Manufacturing and started dredging from a lake adjacent to our property. Within the next year or two, we will be dredging exclusively."

After using the first 8 yard dredge for two years, the company traded in the smaller unit for another Supreme Manufacturing machine. This time, it was a dredge with twin 13-yard buckets and a slew of on-board equipment that would enable Coram to efficiently produce high quantities of material.

The dredge not only extracts materials quickly, it also removes most of the water before conveying it to a processing facility.

The dredge can operate at depths to 200 feet. And while fully 70 percent of what a normal suction dredge retrieves is water, with the clamshell, all that is removed is product. Because this is an all mechanical operation providing for a product that is always visible, there is very little chance of problems occurring. When you are running pipe and a large enough grouping of rocks is encountered, an obstruction can occur anywhere within the structure; the only way to find it is to disassemble the hundreds (or thousands) of feet of piping. With a clamshell bucket and floating conveyors, there is never any guesswork involved.

The dredge has the capabilities of

processing more than 1,000 tons of raw material an hour and the plant produces upward of 500 tons of state spec sand per hour, 100 tons of fine sand and 100 tons each of 3/8-inch and 1/4-inch stone per hour. An additional surge hopper produces 100 tons of bank overflow, keeping the plant full at all times.

"Approximately 95 percent of the water is taken out right on the dredge and the materials are then put onto floating and overland conveyors to be sent to our processing plant," said Vigliarolo. "A lot of other dredges tend to move a lot of water with the product, but ours takes out the water first, so it is more efficient."

The twin 13 yard dredge is designed and manufactured in the U.S. and consists of two 8-feet X 20-feet primary screens, two 4-feet X 8-feet fine screens, two 40-ton trolley cranes, a fresh water pump and two 13 yard spade-nosed buckets. A rock crusher is also on board to reduce larger pieces of stone, including those measuring up to one foot in size. Anything larger, said Vigliarolo, is piled onto a barge, floated to the lakeshore and off-loaded using an excavator.

Along with the heavy duty crushing, separating and digging equipment, the dredge is also outfitted with state-of-

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Dave Hoobler, of Supreme Manufacturing, Stoneboro, PA, with Coram Materials' Mike Vigliarolo. Below: Coram product includes New York state approved sand for concrete and state approved crushed gravel for concrete aggregate.



the-art PLC controls and the entire unit is capable of being operated in multiple digging positions by a single operator. Coram product includes New York state approved sand for concrete and state approved crushed gravel for concrete aggregate.

When the sand and gravel arrive at Coram's land-based plant, the materials are put through a series of dewatering screens, separators and cyclones that produce the company's array of finished products.

"We make everything from state-approved sand, asphalt sand and fine sand to one-quarter inch stone, 3/4-inch stone and 3/8-inch stone," said Vigliarolo.

Depending on the type of product being made, Coram's plant operators adjust the amount of fines mixed into the sand, ensuring that each batch meets New York state specifications.

And, while the operation trucked sand and gravel for more than four decades, the remaining trucks in its fleet were sold in December of 2007.

"We are committed to digging 75 acres of the pit into a lake 100 feet deep with the possibility of expanding



Coram's Supreme Manufacturing twin 13-yard dredge in full operation (above, left). Once material is processed, it's delivered to the plant's main separator the lake to approximately 300 acres," Vigliarolo told NAQN. "We are currently about one-fourth of the way finished with that and things are going very smoothly."



(above right), where it is deposited in separate piles of sand and stone.



Mike Vigliarolo, vice president of Coram Materials Corp., with the twin 13-yard dredge, which consists of two 8-foot X 20-foot primary screens, two 40-ton trolley cranes and a pair of 13-yard spade-nosed buckets.

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***~ Mike Vigliarolo
Vice President for Coram***

Seeing industry growth, Supreme Manufacturing builds U.S. dredges

by Kelly Gates

In the fall of 1990, Neil and David Hoobler joined forces with a former equipment salesman and established their own company, Supreme Manufacturing, of Stoneboro, PA. The trio set out to create conveyors and other materials machinery that would address the needs of members of the quarry industry better than existing units on the market.

"We initially built conveyors and a couple of belt feeders and bins for David's sand plants," said Neil. "Not long after that, we started building the floatation and components for his dredge."

While working on the dredge, the owners of Supreme Manufacturing recognized the importance of using American equipment, added Neil. Rather than combining screens, crushers and other devices made by overseas manufacturers, constructing dredges with machinery made domestically would offer customers convenient access to local service and quick, easy

ordering of parts.

The company had to tweak the unit to make it suitable for their customer's unique application. Customizing each piece of equipment has now become a standard practice at Supreme as every deposit varies from the next, said David.

Most of the machinery made by the company is bound for sand and gravel pits throughout the country, but a few have requested equipment for shot rock quarries.

"We are currently working on a dredge for a customer in Florida that is digging shot rock," said David. "They feed the material into the crusher differently than sand and gravel operations, so we are fine-tuning the equipment to fit their exact processing needs."

Coram Materials Corp., of Miller Place, NY, knows firsthand the benefits of a custom-designed Supreme Manufacturing dredge. The company has been using dredges made by Supreme Manufacturing since 2004.

"We heard about Supreme Manufac-

turing's dredges and they seemed like they were more feasible than the others out there," said Mike Vigliarolo, vice president for Coram. "All other dredges tend to move so much more water than product but Supreme's take nearly all of the water out before the product is belted, making them so much more efficient."

Initially, an 8-yard dredge was purchased. When that unit proved to be efficient — and as Coram's dry land resources dwindled — Coram executives opted to trade in their original Supreme dredge for a larger one. After two years of efficient use, the company traded the 8-yard dredge for a twin 13-yard bucket dredge.

The timing was perfect since the quarry was slowly running out of its dry resources and in the process of transitioning to an on-lake dredge operation, said Vigliarolo.

"Supreme was very good to work with," he said. "They made some minor modifications to the dredge right away to make it fit our operation and we like

that if we need to have extra parts or service, they are available right here in the U.S.

"Down time," he added, "isn't an issue."

In all, Supreme Manufacturing has made 8-yard, 10-yard and twin 13-yard dredges.

"We also have a goal to build a 25 yard dredge," said David. "Of course, we intend to continue using as many American screens, crushers and other components like those made by Deister, Allen Bradley, Plydeck, Tema Iseman and Linatex, for our customers' convenience."

The company also manufactures floating conveyors, stationary conveyors, radial stacking conveyors, hoppers, bins, monorail stacking conveyors, overland conveyors.

For more information, contact Supreme Manufacturing Inc. at 327 Billy Boyd Rd., Stoneboro, PA, 16153, by calling 724-376-4110 or faxing 724-376-3530, or online at www.suprememfg.net.