

Werts Welding & Tank Services named Small Business of the Month



WOOD RIVER — The RiverBend Growth Association has named Werts Welding & Tank Service, Inc. as its Small Business of the Month.

Werts Welding & Tank Service, Inc. first opened its doors for business in March of 1957. Its founder, Robert R. Werts, became interested in welding in high school during the 1940s and worked for a welding shop for six years after his discharge from the service. Werts, along with his wife Verna, began their welding business in a portion of a small building across the street from its present location in Wood River.

In 1958, shortly after the construction of his first building, Werts was approached by a local trucking company to repair a damaged petroleum tank. That unit began the process of Werts Welding & Tank Service, Inc. specializing in the tank trailer industry.

The founders' son, Dwight A. Werts, joined the firm in 1977 and is now the president and CEO. Since then, the third generation of the family has also entered the business.

After several years of repairing tank trailers without a reliable source of parts, Werts Welding started stocking equipment for the type of tank trailers they were repairing. Customers soon found out about the stock, and over-the-counter parts sales began to local accounts. That division of the business grew fast. More product lines were added.

With the development and distribution of a complete tank trailer parts catalog, Werts Welding & Tank Service, Inc. evolved into one of the premier tank trailer equipment distributors in the world.

To better serve customers, Werts Welding opened a tank trailer parts distribution center in San Antonio, Texas, in 1991. In 1997, Werts acquired new parts distribution centers in Birmingham, Ala., Atlanta, Ga. and Tampa, Fla. In 2003, Werts opened its sixth branch in Des Moines. In December, 2011, a seventh branch opened, this one in Billings, Mont.

On March 1, 2013, another branch opened in Denver.

The Wood River facility, in addition to parts warehousing, includes a 10- bay shop. It is a D.O.T. registered, National Board and A.S.M.E. accredited tank trailer repair and fabrication facility. The Birmingham facility also is an accredited tank trailer repair facility along with a complete parts distribution warehouse. New Heil & Beall aluminum tank trailer sales, Trans Tech, & Mid-State truck tanks sales are all handled from the Wood River location.

Werts Welding is a family owned corporation with 80-plus employees. Each employee is considered to be a part of this family.

For more information contact (618) 254-6967 or visit www.wertswelding.com.

The RiverBend Growth Association selects a small business to honor each month. Winners are selected based on a scoring system that awards points for number of years in business, number of employees, overcoming adversity and community service.

Businesses can be nominated by using the form at <http://www.growthassociation.com/page/recognitions-and-awards/>.

The RiverBend Growth Association is the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development organization for the 11 communities known as the River Bend. For more information about the Growth Association, visit www.growthassociation.com or call (618) 467-2280.

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Wood River-based Werts Welding designated June's RBGA Small Business of the Month

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Alex Heeb/The Telegraph Dwight Werts, president and CEO of Werts Welding and Tank Service Inc., stands with employees and RiverBend Growth Association (RBGA) dignitaries, who designated Wood River-based Werts Welding and Tank Service as RBGA Small Business of the Month for June.

WOOD RIVER — Recognized as the name in the tank trailer industry for knowledge, service and repair, parts, new and used tank trailer sales and tank wagon sales, Werts Welding and Tank Service Inc. also received recognition as the RiverBend Growth Association's Small Business of the Month for June.

Werts Welding and Tank Service, based in Wood River, employs 90 people at eight locations across the country

and is a major national player in the tanker trunk market. This year, the company also is celebrating 60 years in business, honoring its founders, Robert R. and Verna Werts.

The Wertses first opened Welding and Tank Service's doors for business in March of 1957. Robert R. Werts became interested in welding while in high school during the 1940s. After his discharge from serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, Werts worked for a local welding shop for six years. After that time, he and his wife decided to open their own welding shop. They began their welding business in a portion of a 30-foot-by-40-foot building across the street from its present location at 400 N. Old St. Louis Road.

In 1958, shortly after construction of their first building, Werts was approached by a local trucking company to repair one of their damaged petroleum tankers. This repair began the journey of Werts Welding and Tank Service, specializing in the tank trailer industry.

The Wertses' son, Dwight Werts, joined the company in 1977 and now serves as the company's president and chief executive officer. Currently, the third generation of the Werts family, has entered the business. The legacy that Robert and Verna Werts started back in 1957 continues to grow.

Known for our extensive and diverse inventory, Werts Welding is a stocking distributor of tank trailer equipment for more than 40 major manufacturers. Being an online UPS shipper, Werts Welding can distribute parts and equipment throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico with ease. It also has established strong alliances with various exporters to expedite its international shipments.

The Wood River facility, in addition to parts warehousing, includes a 10-bay shop; U.S. Department of Transportation registered; and, National Board- and A.S.M.E.-accredited tank trailer repair and fabrication facility. Werts maintains a large inventory of new and quality used tank trailers, of which all inquiries should be made to the Wood River location.

Werts Welding is a family-owned corporation and attributes the growth of the company to the dedication and ability of its employees.