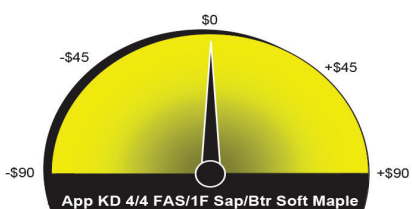
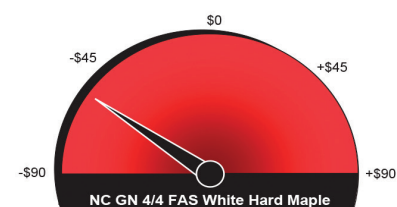
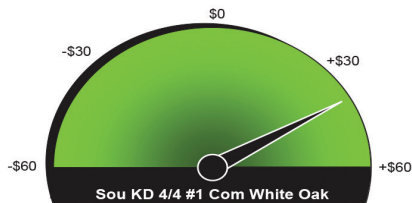


## Hardwood Review Express Hardwood Review Dashboard

### 30-Day Price Movements of Key Lumber Items



### Species Spotlight: Red Oak

January through April Red Oak exports to China weren't as strong as the record-breaking surge last August through November, but they were close enough to ease concerns of a large drop-off in shipments. High production, combined with slow U.S. demand and Chinese price pressures, has left Red Oak with little momentum, however. The typical summer slowdown in shipments to Europe and Asia could drive Red Oak prices even lower. And, with pricing for most species also past their peaks, it will be hard for producers to bypass low Red Oak offers.

SOURCE: *Hardwood Review Express*, June 17, 2016, volume 15, issue 40

**CORRECTION:** In the March/April issue of *Crossties*, the *Hardwood Review Dashboard* was incorrectly attributed to another source. *Hardwood Review Dashboard* is provided courtesy of the *Hardwood Review Express*. RTA is grateful for the opportunity to share *Hardwood Review Express's* information with our members and other *Crossties* readers.

# 2016 RTA Symposium

*Retreat, Talk & Share Ideas In Tropical Beauty* By Kristen McIntosh



### Registration is now open for the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual RTA Symposium and Technical Conference.

Slated for Oct. 25-28 at the tropical Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa in Bonita Springs, Fla., the conference promises three days of networking, exhibits, education, the latest purchasing plans by the Class 1 railroads, status updates on major railroad engineering projects, research and development initiatives and more.

To confirm your registration, go to [www.RTA.org](http://www.RTA.org) and click on the information link at the top of the page. You may also complete the registration form that follows in this issue and email it to [ties@RTA.org](mailto:ties@RTA.org) or fax to (770) 460-5573.

### THE GORGEOUS HYATT REGENCY COCONUT POINT RESORT & SPA

Situated on 26 lush, tropical acres overlooking Estero Bay and the Gulf of Mexico in Bonita Springs, Fla., the beautiful coastal Hyatt Regency invites conference attendees not only to get down to business but also to relax and have fun.

Surrounded by natural beauty and the culture of the Naples area and Southwest Florida coastline, the resort offers a blend of state-of-the-art meeting facilities combined with a resort environment that is ideal for both business and leisure. Spacious suites and rooms are designed to enrich the lodging experience by providing a laid-back, comfortable setting. Rooms and suites fea-

ture Hyatt Grand Beds, generous work areas, free Wi-Fi, refrigerators and iHome stereos.

Dining outlets are plentiful and offer cuisine ranging from the freshest seafood to poolside refreshments.

On site are numerous venues to explore for fun and relaxation: Stillwater Spa, a 24-hour access fitness center, a one-quarter-mile boardwalk through the mangroves to the marina, and plenty of options for family fun and games. Visit Big Hickory Island Beach, a 15-minute boat ride away, and play in the Adventure Pool, featuring 5,000 square feet of water and a 140-foot corkscrew slide.

### DAY ONE – RELAX, PLAY & CONNECT

On Wednesday, Oct. 26, the Raptor Bay Golf Club will be the site of RTA's Annual Golf Tournament.

The 18-hole, Raymond Floyd-designed Audubon International Gold Signature Sanctuary course features a design that has preserved the most valuable habitats and restored nearly 25 acres of wetlands.

The course features wide fairways with one height of cut throughout and five sets of tees to give players of every skill level a memorable outing.

Guest-sponsored hospitality suites will open at 3 p.m., and the annual RTA President's Reception will be held at 5:30 p.m. Always a fun kick-off event, the reception allows old friends to reconnect and new ones to get to know one another.



**DAY TWO – LET’S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS**

Thursday, Oct. 27 will be a full day of sessions and learning.

The day will kick off with a brief general session and welcome, followed by an economic session focusing on commodities and rail traffic growth. Topics to be explored include oil/MLPs, ethanol, chemicals, railroad investment and long-term drivers for growth extending to 2035.

The RTA working luncheon will include a keynote address by Jonathan Mackay of Morgan Stanley. Mackay will provide an outlook for global and U.S. growth.

Lunch will be followed by a session on procurement, resource and utilization. This session will review hardwood production and consumption, pallet markets, the effects of Washington legislation on hardwood markets and changes in forest species.

An engineering forum will follow, giving Class 1 railroad engineers the opportunity

to discuss the progress of some of their most important construction and maintenance projects of the past year and those that are coming up. This session will also include a presentation from David Becker, president of AREMA.

The evening will cap off with the Annual RTA Banquet and Awards Ceremony, always a highlight of the conference.

This year’s theme—“A Taste Of The Tropics”—will feature multiple tapas/buffet stations.

A portion of the evening’s entertainment will be provided by vocalist Jean Frye Sidwell who will be accompanied by Chris Sidwell, her acoustic/piccolo bassist, composer and producer husband. Jean is truly a jazz singer’s jazz singer. Along with Chris, she is co-creator and co-owner of Pacific Coast Music, an independent record label. Due to the overwhelming success of her CDs and Pandora Radio Station, Jean is recognized as an international recording artist. Chris has produced multiple CDs under the successful record label that he owns with Jean.

Mack Dryden, a powerful motivational speaker and stand-up comedian, will follow the music with a presentation of his hilarious and motivating stories.

As a comedian, Mack has performed on dozens of TV shows and also appeared in several movies and on other TV shows. He also has a recurring role as a judge on ABC’s “The Guardian.”

Mack will share his inspiring yet laugh-out-loud stories of surviving two battles

with cancer, a stay in an African prison, the “sharks in showbiz stab you in front,” and one “near-fatal marriage.”

**DAY THREE – PROCUREMENT, RESOURCE & PURCHASING**

Friday, Oct. 28 will start at 7:45 a.m., with a keynote address from the National Transportation Safety Board’s Robert Sumwalt.

Mike McHenry will provide a research update from the Transportation Technology Center.


McHenry will be followed by a second session on procurement, resource and utilization, where lumbermen will discuss challenges and provide insight.

Last, but certainly not least, is the Railroad Purchasing Forum, where Class 1 railroads will share their purchasing expectations for the coming year. You’ll want to get your seat early, as this session is always filled to the brim.

**FUN FOR GUESTS**

Definitely not overlooked are attendees’ spouses and guests. There are numerous activities planned to entertain them during the business sessions.

In addition to the golf tournament on Wednesday there will be an Everglades eco-tour excursion with lunch included. The tour will take guests to the four major geographical areas of the ecosystem. Walk a boardwalk through the Everglades strands with a naturalist, board an airboat for a unique view of the varied ecosystem, explore the ➤



# Wheeler Lumber

Committed to performance since 1892

## QNAP™

COPPER NAPHTHENATE

Treated Ties & Timbers

Proven oil-borne preservative preferred for environmentally sensitive areas

Engineering and Shop Drawings services available

800.843.8304    www.wheeler-con.com    dakoch@wheeler1892.com

AWPA Standards

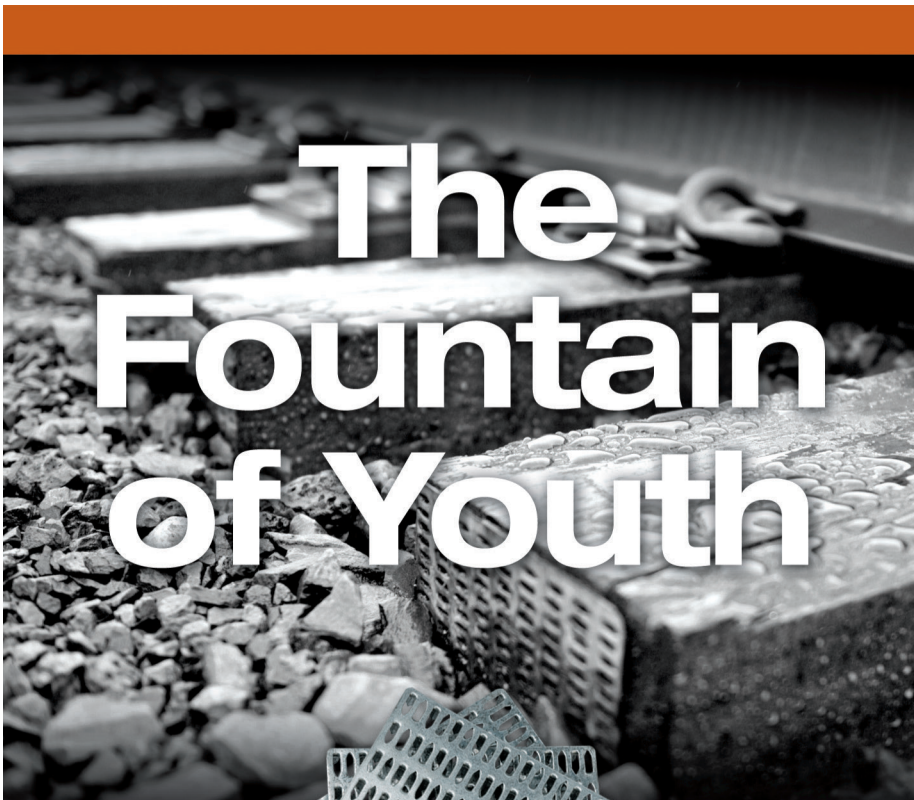
AREMA Approved

Cleaner Handling

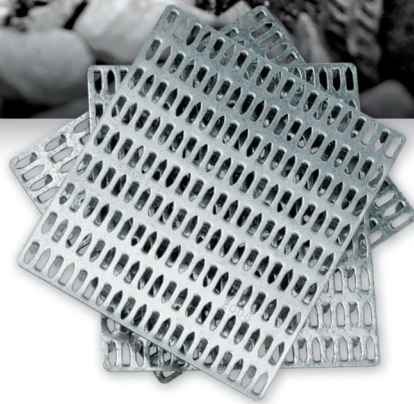
No Corrosion Concerns

TPI Certified Facility





# The Fountain of Youth



**For millions of crossties across North America, the end-of-the-line is now further down the line.**



Eagle Anti-Split Plates are extending the life of millions of Class 1 crossties across North America. Eagle Anti-Split Plates meet and/or exceed Class 1 Railroad specifications with superior splitting resistance that yields added value and profitability for our customers.

Call today and discover how to maximize crosstie life and your bottom line. **Drink deep.**

eaglemetal.com • 1-800-521-3245



## Stay In The Know With Twitter

Follow @RTAHQ for all RTA tweets and #rattiest for 2016 Conference Tweets.

If you need help learning how to use Twitter, you can watch a video here: <https://youtu.be/VWV74mndNaY>.

Members will find more info and a conference game in the Events Circle in My Features after login.

Barron River’s curving Mangrove tunnels and finally see the swampy grasslands that alligators call home. Lunch will be at the Oyster House in Everglades City, which serves up a selection of fresh fish from local fishermen.

On Thursday, guests and spouses are encouraged to participate in the dolphin/shelling excursion with estuary tour and stopover at Parrot Key Caribbean Grill. This three-hour sightseeing and shelling excursion will allow guests to see an abundance of wildlife in one of southwest Florida’s most pristine estuary bays: dolphins, ospreys, egrets, manatees, herons and more. The visit will include a stop at Lover’s Key State Park, where they will comb the beach for some of the most beautiful shells in Florida. This will be followed by a cruise through Estero Bay to Fort Myers Beach, where attendees will enjoy lunch at Parrot Key Caribbean Grill.

“This year’s conference is one you will not want to miss,” said RTA President Kenny Dailey of Stella-Jones. “If you are part of the wood tie industry and want to stay abreast of the latest research and development initiatives, Class 1 engineering plans, tie purchasing expectations and more, this will be an incredibly informative conference. We are very excited about seeing everyone in Bonita Springs, and look forward to an exciting and fun-filled conference.”

Go to [www.RTA.org](http://www.RTA.org) to reserve your spot today. ■



Download the Conference App with this QR code and at <http://eventmobi.com/ta2016/>

# SYMPOSIUM & TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

## October 25-28, 2016 | SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE



#rta2016 for 2016 Conference Tweets

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

- 8:30 am **RTA Golf Tournament**  
– Raptor Bay Golf Club  
(PLUS Additional Activities for Attendees during Golf Outing – See Below)
- 3:00-6:00 pm **RTA Guest Sponsored Hospitality Suites**
- 5:30-7:00 pm **RTA President's Reception**

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

- 7:45-8:00 am **RTA GENERAL BUSINESS SESSION AND WELCOME**
- 8:00-11:30 am **ECONOMIC SESSION with Focus on Commodities & Rail Traffic Growth**  
**Keith Thompson, Miller Howard Investments** – Oil/MLPs  
**Tom Buis, Ethanol** – Growth Energy.Org  
**Joel Lindahl, Wood Mackenzie** – Chemicals  
**Tony Hatch, ABH Consulting** – Railroad Investment Analysis 2016  
**John Gray, AAR** – Long Term Drivers for Growth to 2035
- 11:30–12:15pm **Networking and Exhibition BREAK**  
(Lunch Buffet opens at noon)
- 12:00–2:45 pm **RTA Working Luncheon with Keynote Address**  
**Jonathan Mackay, Morgan Stanley** – Outlook for Global & US Growth

**Procurement, Resource & Utilization Session I**  
**David Caldwell, HMR** – Hardwood Production & Consumption  
**Brent McClendon, NWPCA** – Pallet Markets  
**Dana Cole, Hardwood Federation** – DC Effects on Hardwood Markets  
**Bill Luppold, USDA Forest Service** – Species Changes in the Forest

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27 (CONT.)

- 2:45-5:30pm **Engineering Forum**  
**New Construction/Maintenance Projects to Safely Drive Growth**  
*(All invited, except as noted)*  
**David Becker**, Chief Eng. Design/Const., NS, AREMA President (Confirmed)  
**Kenneth Sito**, Sr. AVP, **Union Pacific** (Confirmed)  
**John Cech**, AVP & Chief Engineer, **BNSF**  
**Ed Boyle**, AVP MW&S, **Norfolk Southern**  
**Tod Echler**, AVP Engineering, **CSX Transportation**  
**Justin Meyer**, VP Engineering, **Canadian Pacific**  
**Shaun Vecellio/Buck Jones**, **Kansas City Southern**  
“Vendor-mercials”

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

- 7:45–10:00 am **Keynote – Breathe. Listen. Live or Die. It's Up to You**  
**Robert Sumwalt**, National Transportation Safety Board
- Research**  
**Mike McHenry**, Transportation Technology Center
- Procurement, Resource & Utilization Session II** (75-minute Session)  
**Bill Buchanan**, Buchanan Lumber  
**Bob Miller**, Frank Miller Lumber Co.  
**Matthew Netterville**, Netterville Lumber Co  
**Thomas Battle**, Battle Lumber Company
- 10:30-10:45 am **Networking and Exhibition Break**
- 10:45-12:30 pm **Railroad Purchasing Forum**  
**Cory Thomas**, BNSF  
**Nate Irby**, Union Pacific  
**Larry Fenwick**, CSX Transportation  
**Kristine Storm**, Genesee & Wyoming  
**Scott Feldman**, Norfolk Southern  
**Bill Blaise**, Kansas City Southern  
**Bruce Emberly**, Canadian National  
**Rob Churma**, Canadian Pacific



Download the Conference App with this QR code and at <http://eventmobi.com/rta2016/>

### ATTENDEE/SPOUSE (Fee Included) AND OPTIONAL (Fee Not Included) ACTIVITIES:

The Golf tournament and Everglades tour are on Wednesday, October 26th. The Dolphin Adventure and Estuary Tour with lunch on the water is on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> (during the Business Sessions). All of these activities are optional and require additional registrations. Minimums must be met for all events to run, as planned and maximums may apply in some cases.

#### OCTOBER 26, 2016

**Optional - RTA Golf Tournament – Raptor Bay Golf Club**  
8:30am - 3:00pm on October 26, 2016  
**Pre-event Cost is \$195 - At the Event \$225**

Each hole of the Raptor Bay Golf Club was carefully created to blend with the environment, leaving a beautiful course with natural surroundings. Under the guidance of Audubon International, they have developed an ecological design that preserved the most valuable habitats on-site and restored nearly 25 acres of wetlands. With no residential sites on the property, the natural surroundings encourage the appearance of protected wild creatures including the American Bald Eagle, Great Blue Herons, Snowy Egrets and even the very shy Whooping Crane. The tournament quality course features wide fairways with one height of cut throughout and five sets of tees to give players of every level a memorable outing.

**Optional – Everglades Eco-Tour Excursion**  
“Lunch Included” (Minimum 15 – Maximum 50)  
9:00am – 2:30pm October 26, 2016  
**\$175 pre-event - \$195 at event**

Come discover the four major geographical areas of this unique ecosystem – the pinewoods, the cypress swamps, the fresh & saltwater marshes, and the mangrove swamps. First stop will be the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve, where you will take the boardwalk thru the largest of the Everglades strands with an area Naturalist. Next comes a 30-minute airboat ride, which will give you a unique view of the varied ecosystem that makes up the Florida Everglades. You will travel along the Barron River, through narrow curving Mangrove tunnels and finally to the swampy grasslands,

where alligators are usually found sunning themselves in the Florida sunshine, plus see an interactive (yikes!) Gator show. Lunch follows and will be enjoyed at the famous Oyster House located in Everglades City. Established in 1983, this locally owned & operated restaurant serves up selections fresh from the fisherman's net to your table.

#### OCTOBER 27, 2016

**Optional (Highly Recommended for Spouses) – Dolphin/Shelling Excursion with Estuary Tour and a Stopover at Parrot Key Caribbean Grill**  
9:30am - 2:30pm  
**Light Continental Breakfast at hotel at 8:30am – (minimum 30 – maximum 49)**  
**All Tour Related Costs (including water/sodas on boat) \$125 Pre-Event, \$145 at Event**  
**(Lunch-on-Own at Parrot Key Grill – Many choices from diverse preset menu)**

Three-hour Eco-sightseeing and shelling excursion. Very informative tour with a chance to see an abundance of wild-life in one of Southwest Florida's most pristine estuary bays where we often see dolphins, ospreys, egrets, manatees and herons. Stop at Lover's Key State Park where the guests will comb the beach for some of the best shelling in Florida. Continue to cruise through Estero Bay to Ft. Myers Beach to Parrot Key Caribbean Grill for a great lunch on the water (paid on your own).

**RTA Banquet – A Tapas Style Taste of the Tropics**  
7:00pm – 10:15pm on October 27

Join RTA for a “Taste of the Tropics” food celebration. Multiple tapas/buffet stations will be set up for your dining

enjoyment! Banquet and President's Reception Entertainment Vocalist Extraordinaire Jean Frye Sidwell & Acoustic/Piccolo Bassist, Composer and Producer, Chris Sidwell will perform during the President's Reception and also during dinner at the Banquet on Thursday evening. Jean is truly a jazz singer's, jazz singer. Partnered with husband, Chris, she is co-creator & co-owner of Pacific Coast Music, an independent record label. Due to the overwhelming success of her CD's and Pandora Radio Station, Jean is recognized as an international recording artist. Chris has produced and recorded multiple CD's under the successful record label that he co-owns with wife, Jean. The duo will be followed by Mack Dryden a powerful motivational speaker and stand-up comedian. As a comedian, he's performed on dozens of TV shows, including the Tonight Show with both Johnny Carson and Jay Leno. As an actor, he appeared in several movies and on many other TV shows, including JAG and a recurring role as a judge on ABC's The Guardian. Creating hilarious custom humor for each audience comes naturally to the former staff writer for an HBO Comedy Series. His stories of surviving two battles with cancer, a stay in an African prison, “sharks in showbiz stab you in front,” and one “near-fatal marriage” are as inspiring as they are laugh-out-loud funny! From humble beginnings as the “funniest paper mill employee in Mississippi,” Mack earned a black belt in karate even as he was earning his Masters in Creative Writing. Now based in Louisville, KY, he spends his time writing and traveling the country bringing his special brand of motivation, inspiration, and jubilation to thousands each year. It hasn't been an easy road; but, as he says, “Falling on your face is still moving forward.”



# SYMPOSIUM & TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

Join Us In Bonita Springs, Florida | October 25-28, 2016

## Registration For The 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

**NOTE:** CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES COVER ALL MEETINGS, BUSINESS LUNCHEON, PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION, AND ANNUAL BANQUET. Please complete both the Registration AND golf form if you want to play in the golf tournament.



#rta2016 for 2016 Conference Tweets

### Reserve Your Hotel:

#### Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa

Make your reservations now!

Reserve Online At:

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/RTA2016>

There is no guarantee of a room beyond Sept. 22, 2016. Make hotel reservations under the RTA Room Block by calling (888) 421-1442

Room rate \$189 + tax per night USD.

Early registration ends Aug. 31, 2016

Full refund (minus \$50 admin fee) until Sept. 19, 2016. Half refund until Oct. 1, 2016. No refunds after Oct. 1, 2016.

### Reserve Your Space:

#### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (Golf registration form is at the bottom)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_  
TO APPEAR ON BADGE

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD, PLEASE USE ADDRESS ON CARD

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Business) Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_

### Please Check All Fees That Apply.

Yearly Membership fees must be paid in advance.

|                                                                                      | Fees For Early Reg.<br>(Before 9/1/15) | Fees For Late Reg.<br>(After 8/31/15) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Producer, Supplier, Contractor & Consulting Member          | \$575                                  | \$625                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member                                            | \$345                                  | \$395                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member—Railroad, Government & Academic                  | \$575                                  | \$625                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member—Other                                            | \$795                                  | \$845                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse Participation (Fee to attend any conference events.) | \$295                                  | \$345                                 |

(No additional fee for spouse/guest hospitality breakfast at hotel on Wed. 4th)

### Optional Events

(Additional pre-event fees are required.)

|                                                                                                                              | Advanced<br>Registration | On Site<br>Registration |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Tournament - Oct. 26 (Fill out form below.)                                                    | \$195                    | \$225                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Everglades Eco-Tour Excursion - Oct. 26                                                             | \$175                    | \$195                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dolphin/Shelling Excursion with Estuary Tour and a Stopover at Parrot Key Caribbean Grill - Oct. 27 | \$125                    | \$145                   |

\*\*\*\*Minimums & Maximums Are In Effect So Advanced Registration is Necessary\*\*\*\*  
Tours are not guaranteed to run if minimums are not met.

**TOTAL PAYMENT** (Include spouse fees & any optional tours or golf fee) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Type:

CHECK  CREDIT CARD

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name On Card \_\_\_\_\_

3 digit CVC on back of card \_\_\_\_\_

4 digit CVC on front of AMEX \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Zip/Postal Code if different from above: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Presenters and attendees who are RTA members need to check the box that corresponds to their membership type and submit that fee.

## RTA GOLF REGISTRATION PLEASE SUBMIT ONE FORM PER GOLFER

### Raptor Bay Golf Club

Tuesday, October 26, 2016 • RTA Tournament - Shotgun start format (\$195 each player).

Contact golf shop at (239) 390-4600 for club rentals.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap \_\_\_\_\_

If you have preferred playing partners for main tournament list them below (Each must register separately.)

1. Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Preferred Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Preferred Partner: \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Preferred Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form with all registration fees to:

#### Railway Tie Association

115 Commerce Dr.,  
Suite C  
Fayetteville, GA 30214

(P) 770-460-5553

(F) 770-460-5573

To submit form electronically,  
e-mail to:

**ties@rta.org**