

Register Now

For Tie Grading Seminar In Alabama

Final preparations are being made for the Railway Tie Association's (RTA) annual Tie Grading Seminar, which will be held July 20-22 in Montevallo, Ala.

Fieldwork, including the Species Identification and Crosstie Grading Derby, will take place at the Seaman Timber Company.

Students will receive instruction and perform field exercises covering untreated wood deterioration, storage and handling, species identification, defects and grading, treating technology, and more. "There will be a strong emphasis on the practical aspects of tie grading," said RTA Executive Director Jim Gauntt.

A roster of "distinguished experts in the forest products industry will provide seminar instruction" Gauntt said. Instructors will include Terry Conners of the University of Kentucky, Jimmy Watt of The Crosstie Connection, and Jeff Morrell of Oregon State University. Gauntt will also serve as an instructor.

The cost of the seminar is \$495, which includes the price of the seminar, take-home materials, Sunday night reception, and lunch on Tuesday.

Attendees should arrange for their own accommodations by the June 15 deadline through Holiday Inn Express – Pelham by calling (205) 987-8888. Ask for the RTA room block to receive the negotiated \$99 per night rate (plus 14 percent tax). The rate includes a complimentary deluxe breakfast bar each morning.

For more information, contact Debbie Corallo, RTA administrator, at (770) 460-5553 or dcorallo@rta.org. A complete agenda is available online at www.rta.org. §



Wood Preservation Research Under Way

From Staff Reports

After two years of concerted efforts by the Railway Tie Association (RTA) Research and Development (R&D) Committee and in conjunction with Mississippi State University, a long-term comparative test of creosote and alternative wood preservatives officially is under way.

The test is dubbed RTA-AWPRP (Railway Tie Association - Alternative Wood Preservative Project) and is designed to determine how other wood preservative systems and one non-indigenous, untreated species stack up against the industry standard creosote and creosote solutions.

Sponsorship of the test has come from 10 test cooperators, RTA and Class 1 railroads. "This is truly an industry-wide effort aimed at providing some insight into the relative performance of new treatment systems," said RTA R&D Committee Chairman Gary Ambrose of Koppers Inc.

In addition to creosote and creosote and oil solutions, borate pre-treated ties, copper naphthenate systems, other copper and creosote combination systems, soy-oil based preservative products, borates and proprietary oils, and other preservative systems are also being evaluated. One untreated South American species (Turada) is also in test.

The evaluation is occurring in two separate locales. One of these locations, the MSU - McNeill, site is heavily infested with Formosan Subterranean Termites (FST). The other MSU - Dorman site only has native termite populations.

"The idea was to run duplicate tests, and at the same time, see if there are any differences noted in performance where more aggressive FST populations are present," Ambrose said.

The test has been designed to be in place for 20 years with periodic evaluation reports to be provided to all test cooperators and sponsors. Cooperators providing treated wood products include Envirosafe, Osmose Corp., Lonza, Nisus Corp., Cedarcide, Merichem Company, BioPreserve, Seaman Timber Company, Stella-Jones/BPB Corp., KMG and Koppers Inc. §

CROSSTIE GRADING SEMINAR

JULY 20-22



✂ Cut Here

Yes, I will be attending the **2008 TIE GRADING SEMINAR**

Please call the **Holiday Inn Express – Pelham, AL** location at **205.987.8888** to make your hotel reservations. The Railway Tie Association negotiated rate is **\$99/night + 14% tax**, and our room block will be lifted **June 15th**!

NAME _____

COMPANY _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TYPE OF BUSINESS _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____

E-MAIL _____

ANTICIPATED ARRIVAL TIME _____

PLEASE NOTE: THE SPECIAL BONUS SESSION BEGINS AT 1:00 PM ON SUNDAY, JULY 20th SO PLEASE KEEP IN MIND WHEN MAKING YOUR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.

PAYMENT TYPE

CHECK (make payable to Railway Tie Association)

VISA, MASTERCARD, AMERICAN EXPRESS, DISCOVER

TOTAL PAID _____

CARD # _____

EXP. DATE _____

SECURITY CODE _____

*3- or 4-digit validation code from back of card

NAME ON CARD AND BILLING ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE:

Please include **\$495 REGISTRATION FEE** with this form and mail or fax to
RTA, 115 Commerce Dr., Suite C, Fayetteville, GA
30214 • Fax 770.460.5573