

Record Sawmill Attendance At 2008 Conference

2008 will be remembered for many things. Significant changes in Washington, financial and economic turmoil, and for RTA members record attendance by sawmillers at the association's annual conference. This strong showing by sawmills generated the best conference attendance in decades.

Is this the result of the location, the venue, the business session presentations, the times? According to sawmill owners, all these factors, plus more, played a role. As the RTA conference has grown over the past few years to include more exhibits, greater railroad attendance, and a focus on hardwood issues in the sessions it has become a natural for hardwood mills to gravitate toward RTA's symposium.

This is important to all those who depend on this segment of the tie industry. And, as the association moves forward with a new president for 2009, increasing sawmill involvement will be a key to increasing the RTA's value to its membership (see article pg. 23).

Photos only tell part of the story, but they do a great job in capturing the flavor of the event. You are invited to relive some of the moments of the 90th annual gathering of the RTA in the following pictorial exposé. §

Pictures from the conference were taken by Gary Coleman of Coleman Photography and can be accessed and purchased online at www.photorelect.com.



Record numbers gather in Savannah.



Attendees during a business session.



The RTA Thursday Business Luncheon was well attended.

Fishing



Gary Hunter (center) with Ken Peirson, Rob Matthews & Bill Donley (behind left).



Gary Ambrose, Ted Woerle and Steve Lish.



Walt King with Elton McGough in the background.



Howard Tomlinson and his big catch.

Pontoon Boat Tour



RTA members and guests brave the cold to do a little sightseeing—pontoon style!



One of Savannah's "residents."

President's Reception



Phil Myers, Ken Laughlin and Tom Mitchell.



Karen & Terry Gillis and Gene Tonsager of Recovery 1.



Bill Zimmer, Phil Pietrandrea and Lizabeth Albanese.



Jan & Kris Hedding with Doug Fox of Stella-Jones/BPB Corp.



Chad & Erin Rolstad of BNSF.



Matt Roberts, Chris Smith and John Reaves with Asphalt and Fuel Supply LLC.



Jim Gauntt & Debbie Corallo of RTA.



Ray Zenisek and Lisa Benz of CSX transportation.



Amber & Baird Quisenberry of Eagle Metal Products.



Janet Seaman, Sharon Williams, Kenny & Rhonda Dailey, and Alison Potts of Seaman Timber Co/Boatwright Enterprises.



Karen & Allan Zarembski with Marshall Allen.



Brenda Watt with Susan Tomlinson, Becky Mellott, Barb Ambrose and Ginger Bowzer.



Rusty Pfeiffer of Koppers Inc. takes home an American Express Gift Card.



Carter Hatley with Robert Hatley and Charles Evelyn of Charles City Forest Products.



Kristen McIntosh and Lisa White of Covey Communications Corp.



Patrick Smotek of BNSF describes the one that got away.



Kim & JoJo Sigurdson.

Business Luncheon



Stan & Rosalie Thomas.



Business Luncheon crowd.



John Gray of the AAR.



Jalene Forbis of CSLRRA.



Head table during the Annual Business Luncheon.

Business Sessions



Bill Moss with Paul Gilles.



Ray Stackhouse Sr. with Ray Stackhouse Jr. of Ray's Transportation.



Joe Balich and Craig Domski.



Attendees listen intently during the Thursday morning sessions.



Preston Painter with other attendees during the educational sessions.



Doug Delmonico of Encore Rail giving RTA's first-ever Vendor-mercial presentation.



Attendees during Thursday afternoon sessions.



RTA President Janet Seaman

Banquet



Referee Team RTA!



Bob & Josie Cunningham of Canada Crossties.



Bob & Joann Barton and Danny Bennett.



Tom Judge with Brenda & Rick Ebersold.



George Sokulski and Bill Bowzer at head of buffet line.



Team spirit everywhere!



Gary Williams with JoJo & Kim Sigurdson.



Parker Dempsey family.



Jim Gauntt and George Caric giving out golf awards.



Dave Koch, Bill Bowzer, Wes Piatt and Rod Westerlin were some of the big golf winners.



Branding Hammer Award Winner Preston Painter with RTA President Janet Seaman.



Broad Axe Award Winner Elton McGough with Janet Seaman.



Silver Saw Award Winner Parker Dempsey with Janet Seaman.



Outgoing RTA Board members Bill Rousis and Tony Helms with President Seaman.



2008-2009 Incoming RTA President Gary Williams accepting the gavel of authority from current President Janet Seaman.



Barb Rousis and banquet entertainer Craig Karges scoping out "volunteers."



Karges with Jan Williams.



Howard Tomlinson with Karges.



Mark Blattie with Karges.



Carla Coats with Karges.



Amber Quisenberry helps Karges with his levitation table demonstration.



Dave Koch takes a chance and doubles his winnings!

Golf



John Giallonardo, John Heller, Mike Mancione, and Mike Trygar.



Rob Churma, Robert Stewart, Stan Thomas and Mike Collins.



Billy McKa, Bernie Gierschke, Tony Helms and Mike Poor.



Clif Jones, Brad Ginsburg, Scott Dailey and Mark Blattie.



Kenny & Rhonda Dailey with Erin & Chad Rolstad.

Trolley Tour



Ladies brave the cold to climb aboard the Savannah trolley.



Susan Tomlinson, Jan Williams and Becky Mellott.



RTA ladies posing as they wait to go into Paul Deen's Lady & Sons Restaurant.



Ginger Bowzer and Barb Domski posing with their good friend, Paula Deen!

Exhibitors & Vendors



Bernard Boulet with Atlanta & Pacific Rail Supply.



Bill Hendrix with Brewco Inc.



Wheeler Lumber, LLC.



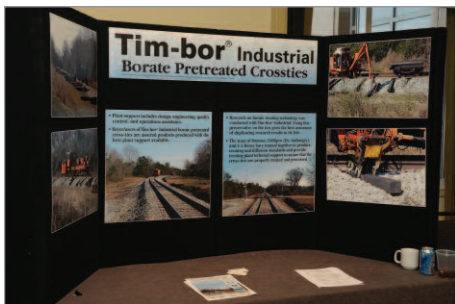
Baird Quisenberry with Eagle Metal Products.



Encore Rail Systems, Inc.



L.B. Foster Co.



Osmore, Inc.



Johnny Clark and Brian McElwain of P&G Manufacturing.



Paul Avery, Paul Gillis and Marty Fox with Brewer, Inc.

RTA would like to thank the 2008 Sponsors

Company	Sponsoring	Company	Sponsoring
Acme Wood Preserving Inc.	Thursday Spouse Continental Breakfast and Hospitality	Osmore Inc.	Tabletop Exhibit & Speakers' Gifts
Asphalt & Fuel Supply, LLC	Conference Programs	P & G Manufacturing LLC	Tabletop Exhibit
Atlantic & Pacific Rail Supply	Tabletop Exhibit	Pandrol USA	Bronze Hole
Brewco Inc.	Tabletop Exhibit, Vendor-Mercial and Bronze Hole	Progressive Railroading	Fishing Events
Brewer Inc.	Tabletop Exhibit	RailWorks Corporation	Thursday Afternoon Refreshments during the Business sessions and Bronze Hole
Burlington Northern Santa Fe	Bronze Hole	Seaman Timber Company	Banquet Bar
CSX Transportation	Bronze Hole	Stella-Jones/BPB Corp.	Spouse Tour and Luncheon, Spouse Favors, and Bronze Hole
Eagle Metal Products	Tabletop Exhibit	Tangent Rail Corp.	Thursday Main Business Session Continental Breakfast and Gold Hole
Encore Rail Systems Inc.	Tabletop Exhibit and 2 Vendor-Mercials	Thompson Industries	Friday Main Business Session Continental Breakfast and Silver Hole
Herzog Contracting	Silver Hole	The Tie Yard of Omaha Inc.	Conference Signage Sponsorship and Silver Hole
KMG-Bernuth Inc.	Co-Thursday Business Luncheon	Vossloh Fastening Systems	\$500 American Express Gift Card Drawing
Koppers Inc.	Co-Thursday Business Luncheon & Conference	America Corporation	Tabletop Exhibit
L.B. Foster Co.	Give-Away Bags	Wheeler Lumber LLC	
MiTek Industries Inc.	Tabletop Exhibit		
NRC	Thursday A.M. Coffee Break during the Business Sessions and Bronze Hole		
Norfolk Southern	Gold and Bronze Holes		
	Bronze Hole		