

New Ideas For The Future & A Trip Down Memory Lane

RTA Offers Both At 92nd Annual Technical Conference In Branson

By Kristen McIntosh

The Railway Tie Association's (RTA) 92nd Annual Symposium and Technical Conference, slated for Tuesday, Oct. 12-Thursday, Oct. 14, will present an opportunity for attendees to look back at the history of the rail industry as well as look into its bright future. "Our theme this year is Railroading Through The Years. This topic will be woven throughout our presentations as well as our guest hospitality breakfast, when the hotel chef will teach attendees how to prepare some classic railroad dining car meal items," said RTA Executive Director Jim Gauntt, urging members to make plans now to attend.

"Never before has RTA offered such a rich variety of optional activities for members and their families to enjoy—golf at one of Missouri's finest courses, tours, fly-fishing, trap shooting, and that's not all," Gauntt said. "When all the Wednesday business is done, guests and members alike will have a rousing

good time at the annual banquet where the Norfolk-Southern Lawmen will provide world-class entertainment. With the modest cost of attending and all that RTA will offer in the business sessions and surrounding activities, industry participants can't afford to miss this event."

The conference will be held at the new Hilton Branson Convention Center which is a wonderful property perfectly suited for RTA members to enjoy another unique and superb annual conference. "Situated right at the heart of the Branson Landing, the hotel is within minutes of hundreds of things to do. Plus, the meeting space is spectacular. Along with the outstanding line-up of speakers we've organized, attendees will also be especially pleased with this venue," Gauntt said.

Among the new sessions planned for this year's conference is an update on the economy and how it is playing into the sustainability and future growth of the railroad industry. On tap to speak are David Wyss, chief economist for Standard & Poors; John Gray, senior vice president of policy and economics for the Association of American Railroads; Anthony Hatch, president of ABH Consulting; and Wes Moss, certified financial planner and host of radio show "Money Matters."

A session on the hardwood marketplace will be included, where attendees will learn about changes in hardwood lumber production and other trends that could affect future availability of green ties and receive an update on timberland investments and hardwood timber supplies.

For this year's general business session luncheon, attendees will hear from Gail Hinshaw, who specializes in business turnaround and leadership development in a presentation titled, "How to Create a High-Performance Workplace CULTure: Leadership Lessons from the Masters."

Also on tap are updates on legislation affecting the rail industry, engineering reports and purchasing plans from the Class

1's, and tie research initiatives and updates.

Attendees' guests will not feel left out, as they will be able to select from a variety of optional activities. Enjoy fly fishing in the Dogwood Canyon Nature Park; trap shooting coordinated by a world-class coach and instructor; shopping and cruising Lake Taneycomo for lunch; and a tour of the tuition-free College of the Ozarks, known as Hard Work U, followed by a luncheon in a 40,000-square-foot log building known for its large, covered veranda revealing a view of the campus and the Branson city skyline.

Not to be missed is RTA's Annual Golf Tournament, this year scheduled for the Payne Stewart Golf Club. The 18-hole course, named by *Golf Week* to be among the top 40 new course layouts in 2009 and among the top five best public access courses in the state, pays tribute to the life of Missouri golfer Payne Stewart.

RTA continues to expand both sponsorship and exhibit opportunities for member companies, and a limited number of slots remain. "Last year's RTA sponsors contributed significantly to the success of the conference by sponsoring everything from conference giveaways to meal events to optional activities and spouse hospitality events," he said. "This does two things. First, it heightens the attendee experience at the conference and, second, it adds another option for member companies to garner extra special recognition to users of wood crossties. Speaking of increasing visibility, members continue to take advantage of increasing tabletop exhibit space. Always located in high traffic areas for attendees to gather and network, the exhibit area is the perfect place to showcase new products and services as well as share new ideas with potential buyers."

To register, complete the form on page 12 and return to RTA's offices with your payment, or log on to www.rta.org. For more information, contact Debbie Corallo, RTA administrator, at (770) 460-5553. §



Branson Lakes Area CVB

The Hilton Branson Convention Center Hotel will serve as the backdrop for RTA's 2010 Technical Conference. For more info, log on to www.rta.org.

2010 RTA SYMPOSIUM & TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 12-14, 2010

A G E N D A

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2010

- 8:00 a.m. RTA GOLF TOURNAMENT - Payne Stewart Golf Club
(Activities for spouses & guests during golf outing – see below)
- 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. RTA GUEST-SPONSORED HOSPITALITY SUITES
- 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2010

- 7:45 - 8:00 a.m. RTA GENERAL BUSINESS SESSION & WELCOME
■ **Raeanne Presley**, Mayor of Branson, MO
- 8:00 - 10:15 a.m. THE ECONOMY
■ **David Wyss**, Chief Economist, Standard & Poors
“The U.S. Economy: A Slow Recovery”
■ **John Gray**, Senior VP of Policy & Economics, Association of American Railroads
■ **Anthony Hatch**, President, ABH Consulting
“Sustainability of the Railway Renaissance in a Dynamic Economy”
■ **Wes Moss**, Certified Financial Planner and Host, “Money Matters” on WSB, Atlanta
- 10:15 - 10:25 a.m. VENDOR-MERCIALS
Vendor Sponsored 3-Minute Presentations
(must sign up in advance)
- 10:25 - 11:55 a.m. THE HARDWOOD MARKETPLACE
■ **Judd Johnson**, Editor, *Hardwood Market Report*
■ **Bill Luppold**, Economist, USDA Forest Service Research Station, “Changes in Hardwood Lumber Production & Other Trends That May Affect Future Availability of Green Ties”
■ **David Branch**, Managing Director, John Hancock Financial Services, and **Chris Zinkham**, Managing Director and CEO, The Forestland Group, “Timberland Investments & Hardwood Timber Supplies: An Update”
- Noon - 2:00 p.m. RTA GENERAL BUSINESS SESSION LUNCHEON
■ **Gail Hinshaw**, Business Turnaround Professional Specializing in Leadership Development
“How To Create A High Performance Workplace
CULTure: Leadership Lessons From The Masters”
- 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. THE LEGISLATION
■ **Richard Timmons**, President, American Short Line & Regional Railroad Association

SPOUSE AND OTHER OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

The first three events will be held during the golf tournament on Tuesday, Oct. 12th & at an extra cost with minimums and maximums required:

1 – Fly-Fishing Adventure of a Lifetime. Fully guided (1 guide per two fishermen) trout stream fishing for four hours in the **Dogwood Canyon Nature Park** in the heart of the **Ozarks** in the fall. This promises to be a day that you will never forget!

2 – Trap Shooting Adventure & Tournament. This unique event will be available for up to 30-45 people and will be coordinated by American trap shooting coach & instructor **Bill Smith**. The first round of 25 will handicap the event, with the remaining three rounds counting toward any prizes. This should be a great event for the beginner or experienced shooter.

3 – Shopping & Lunch Cruise at The Landing (located across the street from the Hilton) and then meet up afterwards for a 1.5-hour lunch **cruise on Lake Taneycomo**

CROSSTIES • MAY/JUNE 2010

- **Chuck Baker**, Executive Director, National Railroad Construction & Maintenance Association
■ **Keith Hartwell**, President, Chambers, Conlon & Hartwell

- 3:30 – 3:45 p.m. VENDOR-MERCIALS
Vendor Sponsored 3-Minute Presentations
(must sign up in advance)

- 3:45 – 5:15 p.m. ENGINEERING SESSION
with Special AREMA Presidential Address
■ **John Unsworth**, Manager, Structures Planning & Design, Canadian Pacific
■ **John Bosshart**, BNSF
■ **Todd Wimmer**, Union Pacific
■ **John West**, CSX Transportation
■ **Jeff McCracken**, Norfolk Southern
■ **David Ferryman**, Canadian National

- 7:00 p.m. ANNUAL RTA BANQUET & AWARDS CEREMONY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2010

- 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. THE RESEARCH
■ **Rich Reiff**, Principal Investigator, Transportation Technology Center, Inc. “Update on Wood Tie and Fastener Tests Under Heavy Axle Load Traffic”
■ **Dr. Allan Zarembski**, Vice President and General Manager, Zeta-Tech, “Assessment of Concrete Tie Life: U. S. Railway Experience”
■ **Steve Smith**, Consultant, AquAeTer, Inc. “Life Cycle Assessment of Creosote Treated Ties”
■ **Michael Sanders**, Research Associate, Mississippi State University - Department of Forest Products
■ **Stacey McKinney**, Director, Technical Services, Koppers Inc., “New Information from 50-Year Creosote Study”
■ **Dave Webb**, Creosote Council, A Special Presentation of New Creosote Worker Safety Video
■ **Dr. Ben Dawson-Andoh** and **Jeffrey J. Slahor**, West Virginia University, and **Dr. Gordan Murray**, Stella-Jones, “An Operational Enhancement From Two Step Borate To One Step Borate For Treated Wood”
- 11:00 – 12:30 p.m. CLASS 1 PURCHASING SESSION
■ **Jack Hellmann** - Genesee & Wyoming, Inc.
■ **Chad Rolstad** - BNSF
■ **Gary Hunter** - Union Pacific
■ **Lisa Benz** - CSX Transportation
■ **Bill Rousis** - Norfolk Southern
■ **Bruce Emberly** - Canadian National
■ **Rob Churma** - Canadian Pacific

(Branson Landing fronts this lake) aboard the paddle boat “**The Lake Queen**.” This is a modern day replica of the grand riverboats that used to play the **White River** in Branson. As “**The Lake Queen**” paddles along the shores of Lake Taneycomo, the guide for this fun event will explain facts and trivia of historical and present-day Branson waterfront, along with local points of interest.

4 – Spouse & Guest Hospitality and Optional Luncheon and Tour.

The College of the Ozarks is one of only a handful of tuition-free colleges in the U.S. The students work for their education by providing most of the labor on campus and by making products that are sold around the world. Those that register for the luncheon and tour will be guided, by the students, through the college, viewing all the work activities. Following this will be a luncheon in a 40,000-square-foot log building known as the Keeter Center. This elegant space features stone fireplaces and French doors leading to a large, covered veranda revealing an unprecedented view of the College of the Ozarks campus and the Branson skyline.

2010 RTA - BRANSON, MO

SYMPOSIUM & TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

Early Registration Information for the

92nd 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

Producer, Supplier, & Contractor Members

(Includes Consulting Engineers) **\$395 Per Person**

Associate Members

(Railroads, Government and Academic)

\$275 Per Person

Non-Members

(Railroads, Government and Academic)

\$395 Per Person

Other Non-Members

\$595 Per Person

Spouses

(Members and Non-Members)

\$195 Per Person

Return this form with all registration fees to:

The Railway Tie Association
115 Commerce Drive, Suite C,
Fayetteville, GA 30214
phone: (770) 460-5553
fax: (770) 460-5573
email: ties@rta.org

OCTOBER 12-14, 2010

Hilton Branson Convention Center Hotel

Make your reservations now! There is no guarantee of a room beyond September 7, 2010.

Make hotel reservations under the RTA Room Block by calling 1.800.HILTONS inside the U.S.
Outside the U.S. please call 1.417.336.5400

Room rate STARTING AT \$159 night (depending on size), and early registration ends Sept. 1, 2010.

Late registration surcharges: **Additional \$50 per person after Sept. 1, 2010.**
Full refund prior to Sept. 1, 2010. **No refunds after Sept. 1, 2010.**

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

Name _____ Company _____
TO APPEAR ON BADGE

Address _____
IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD, PLEASE USE ADDRESS ON CARD

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____ Name of Spouse _____
TO APPEAR ON BADGE

PLEASE CHECK ALL FEES THAT APPLY. YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FEES MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.

- Producer, Supplier, Contractor & Consulting Member \$395
- Associate Member \$275
- Non-Member—Railroad, Government & Academic \$395
- Non-Member—Other \$595
- Golf Tournament - **Tuesday Oct. 12th** (Fill out form below.) \$155
- Spouse Participation (Fee to attend any conference events.) \$195
- Spouse Tour of The College of the Ozarks & Lunch at Keeter Center \$30

Optional Events (Additional fees are required.)

- Dogwood Canyon Fly Fishing (max 15) 4 hours with guide (Takes place on Tuesday, October 12th - Same Day as Golf Tournament) \$295
- Ozark Shooting Sports Complex (30-45) Trap Shooting Adventure & Tournament \$125 (Takes place on Tuesday, October 12th - Same Day as Golf Tournament)
- Shopping on your Own at Branson Landing Followed by Lunch Cruise aboard the **Lake Queen** on Lake Taneycomo (Takes place on Tuesday, October 12th - Same Day as Golf Tournament) \$35

****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) \$ _____ U.S.

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**

PAYNE STEWART GOLF CLUB — 417.334.4866 • GOLF CHAIRMAN — GEORGE CARIC 412.325.0202

Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010 • RTA Tournament - Shotgun start format [\$155 each player].

THIS IS A SPIKELESS COURSE. COLLARED SHIRTS ARE REQUIRED AND CUT-OFFS AREN'T ALLOWED.

PLEASE NOTE RENTAL CLUBS ARE LIMITED — ONLY RESERVATIONS MADE IN ADVANCE CAN BE CONSIDERED.

TO RESERVE CLUBS, CONTACT **TJ BAGGETT** AT 417.334.4866

Name _____ Company _____ HDCP _____

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: _____