

# 2025 RTA Tie Grading Seminar Agenda

March 10-13, 2025 • The George Hotel • College Station, Texas

## Monday, March 10

5:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception & Introductions
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## Tuesday, March 11

8:00 a.m.	Welcome, Course Overview & Introductions
	RTA Tie Grading App, Website & Events App (Course Evaluation Form)
8:15 a.m.	Introduction to Crosstie Defects & Limitations
9:30 a.m.	Break
9:45 a.m.	Engineering – Rail History, Components & Trackwork
11:15 a.m.	Tie Inspection Grading Booth Perspective & Grading 101 – Tie Grading Station Videos
11:45 a.m.	Lunch
12:45 p.m.	Grading Video
1:00 p.m.	Reduced Speed Grading Station Quiz & Discussion (Test 1)
1:30 p.m.	Break
1:45 p.m.	Wood Identification Basics/Intro to RTA Species
3:30 p.m.	Break
3:45 p.m.	Breakout 4 Groups Cut Off >Species ID
4:00 p.m.	Big Block Species ID Test (Groups: Oak/Hickory, Mixed Hardwoods, Softwoods, Excluded)
4:45 p.m.	Day 1 Review

## Wednesday, March 12

8:00 a.m.	Tree to Track (Sustainability)
8:30 a.m.	Insects, Fungi & Air-Drying Basics
9:00 a.m.	Wood Treating & Treating Demonstration
10:00 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m.	Plant Operations Overview & Inspection Points
11:00 a.m.	Review Species & Defects/Grade
11:30 a.m.	Lunch, Drive to Plant
1:00 p.m.	Facility Tour 1-25 Ties>ID and Grade Practice
3:30 p.m.	Answers for Practice Ties
4:00 p.m.	Return to Hotel

## Thursday, March 13

8:00 a.m.	Wood Tie & Timber Procurement/Specialty Products
8:30 a.m.	Review Defects & Specification
9:00 a.m.	Review Species Groupings
9:15 a.m.	Drive to Plant
9:45 a.m.	Instructions for Final Test – Final Questions
10:00 a.m.	Final Test – Ties 26-50 – Grade & ID Treated Tie Inspection
11:30 a.m.	Lunch
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