

Tropical Destination, Enlightening Sessions, Networking & FUN!

RTA Opens Registration For 96th Annual Conference

Registration is now open for the 96th edition of the Railway Tie Association's (RTA) Annual Symposium and Technical Conference. Slated for Oct. 14-17, the conference will be held at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress in Orlando, Fla.

To confirm your registration, log on to www.rta.org and click on the information link at the top of the page. You may also complete the registration form that follows and e-mail it to ties@rta.org or fax to (770) 460-5553.

Day One - Pre-Session Activities

Following committee meetings on Oct. 14, the conference will officially kick off on Wednesday, Oct. 15, with the annual RTA Golf Tournament at the Grand Cypress Golf Club, located at the resort.

Golfers will hit the greens at 9 a.m. The 18-hole, Scottish links-styled course is reminis-

cent of the Old Course at St. Andrews, complete with 12-foot pot bunkers, stone walls and more.

Later in the evening, attendees will reconnect at the RTA President's Reception, which will be held in the exhibition foyer.

Day Two - The Forums

On Thursday, the RTA General Business Session and Welcome will commence at 8 a.m. with a keynote address from Jonathan Mackay, senior macro strategist with Morgan Stanley. Responsible for providing strategy and advice to the firm's sales force and clients on all aspects of credit investing, Mackay is author of various in-depth

reports including the monthly Credit Report, Basis Points and Dealing with Today's Markets report.

Mackay will be followed by a railroad investment analysis from ABH Consulting's Tony Hatch and the first of two sessions titled, "Procurement, Resource and Utilization," which

will feature experts from the Hardwood Federation, Forestland Group,

Reynolds Forestry and American Hardwood Export Council.

The second Procurement and Resource Session will feature



Joseph C. Szabo, head of the Federal Railroad Administration, will provide the keynote address for RTA's General Business Session Luncheon.





presentations from some of the industry's largest integrated sawmill operations. This geographically diverse forum will provide an in-depth look at what sawmills face in today's changing world of hardwood supply.

RTA's keynote luncheon address will be made by Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph C. Szabo. Szabo leads a staff of more than 900 professionals who develop and enforce safety regulations; manage financial assistance programs; and oversee research and technology development programs.

The D.C. Activities and Associations Forum will feature updates on the safety initiative recently undertaken by the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association as well as the rail industry's legislative initiatives.

The Engineering Forum and address by the president of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association will follow with updates from Norfolk Southern, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, CSX Transportation and Canadian National.

The highlight of the evening will be the Annual RTA Banquet and Awards Ceremony, where attendees will enjoy the improvisational talents of the On The Spot crew of performers. The performers will interact with the audience for a "Whose Line Is It Anyway" themed event that will see performers take suggestions from the audience to create songs and sketches.

Day Three - The Research

On Friday, business will kick off at 8 a.m., with the Research Forum, where attendees

will hear from experts on a variety of wood preservation topics and the development of a test methodology for assessing the effects of preservative treatments on the dimensional stability of railroad ties. In addition, now that the RTA-AWPRP alternative wood preservative research program is in its sixth year, this year's update will illustrate some of the differences now beginning to appear in the test samples.

Always awaited with anticipation, the Railroad Purchasing Forum will allow the Class I railroads to share their purchasing plans for the coming year.

Optional Fun

There are a couple of optional activities to enjoy during the conference, including a "Keys to the Kingdom Tour" of Walt Disney World. The 4.5-hour walking tour includes stops at backstage facilities and a variety of favorite attractions.

Guests might also enjoy a tour of Winter Park. The tour will include a scenic boat ride; a stop at the Morse Museum of American Art, which is filled with the jewelry, pottery, paintings, art glass, stained glass windows, lamps and chapel interior of Louis Comfort Tiffany; and a visit to the Park Avenue shopping district to browse boutiques and art galleries.

"This year's conference promises great golf, fun guest programs, and enlightening sessions for everyone in attendance," said RTA President Jeff Parrett. "For anyone

in the wood tie industry who needs to understand the latest research and development, legislative, purchasing and engineering initiatives, this is not an event to be missed. Additionally, the technical work being done by RTA and presented by other researchers is key to the fulfillment of RTA's primary mission." ■



Walt Disney World Resort

One of the optional activities at this year's conference includes the "Keys To The Kingdom Tour" where attendees can experience secret areas of the park.



Download the Conference App with this QR code and at <http://eventmobi.com/rta2014/>



Follow @RTAHQ for all RTA tweets and #rtaxties for 2014 Conference Tweets.

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

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



Those who wish to may enjoy a scenic 45-minute boat ride through the canals and tree-lined lakes of Winter Park. The tour also includes browsing boutiques and art galleries in the Park Avenue shopping district and a stop at the Morse Museum of American Art.

SYMPOSIUM & TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

October 15-17, 2014 | SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE



#rtaxties for 2014 Conference Tweets

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

- 9:00 AM **RTA GOLF TOURNAMENT**
 Villas of Grand Cypress Golf Resort
Additional activities for attendees during golf outing. (See box below.)
- 3:00 - 6:00 PM **GUEST SPONSORED HOSPITALITY SUITES**
- 5:30 - 7:00 PM **RTA PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION**
 Poolside at Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

- 7:30 - 8:00 AM **RTA GENERAL BUSINESS SESSION & WELCOME**
- KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
Jonathan Mackay, Senior Macro Strategist, Morgan Stanley
- 8:00 - 8:30 AM **RAILROAD INVESTMENT ANALYSIS 2014**
Tony Hatch, President, ABH Consulting
- 8:00 - 9:00 AM **RTA Website & Social Networking Mini-Workshops**
Held Continuously in Exhibition Area
- 9:00 - 10:15 AM **PROCUREMENT, RESOURCE & UTILIZATION SESSION I**
Dana Cole, Hardwood Federation
Joe Schwartz, Forestland Group
Teddy Reynolds, Reynolds Forestry
Mike Snow, American Hardwood Export Council
- 10:15 - 10:45 AM **NETWORKING & EXHIBITION BREAK**
- 10:45 - 12:30 PM **PROCUREMENT, RESOURCE AND UTILIZATION SESSION II**
John Ed Anthony, Anthony Timberlands
Larry Jones, IndustREE Timber, Inc.
Dean Alanko, Allegheny Wood Products
Darrell Beasley, Beasley Forest Products
- 12:30 - 2:00 PM **KEYNOTE ADDRESS - RTA General Business Session Luncheon**
FRA Administrator Joseph Szabo, US Department of Transportation
- 2:00 - 3:00 PM **DC ACTIVITIES AND ASSOCIATIONS FORUM**
Mike Ogborn, Ogborn Consulting Group - "ASLRRR Safety Initiative"
Ed Hamberger, Association of American Railroads - "Legislative Update"
Keith Hartwell, Chambers, Conlon & Hartwell - "Election Year Outlook"

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16 (cont.)

- 3:00 - 3:15 PM **VENDOR-MERCIALS: VENDOR SPONSORED 3-MINUTE PRESENTATIONS**
- 3:15 - 3:30 PM **NETWORKING & EXHIBITION BREAK**
- 3:30 - 5:30 PM **ENGINEERING FORUM & AREMA PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**
Randy Bowman, Engineer Track & Materials, Norfolk Southern (Invited)
John Cech, BNSF (Invited)
Mike Wheeler, Norfolk Southern (Invited)
Todd Wimmer, Union Pacific (Invited)
Tod Echler, CSX Transportation
Dave Ferryman, Canadian National (Invited)
- 7:15 PM **ANNUAL RTA BANQUET AND AWARDS CEREMONY: "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" Game Night**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

- 8:00 - 10:00 AM **RESEARCH FORUM**
Jim Brient, Nisus Corp., "NS Copper Naphthenate/Borate Bridge Work"
Jeff Ellis, Chemist, "Polymeric Additives to Improve the Physical Properties of Wood Ties"
Dave Webb, "Creosote Council's Research Focus for the Railroad Industry"
Tim Carey, Arch Wood Protection, "ACZA Update"
Shane Kitchens, Mississippi State University, "RTA-AWPRP 6-Year Update"
Jeff Morrell, Oregon State University, "Development of a test method for assessing the effects of preservative treatments on dimensional stability of railroad ties"
- 10:00 - 10:30 AM **NETWORKING & EXHIBITION BREAK**
- 10:30 - 12:30 PM **RAILROAD PURCHASING FORUM**
Chad Rolstad, BNSF (Invited)
Sheila Gudenrath, Union Pacific
Lisa Pleasants, CSX Transportation
Kristine Storm, Genesee & Wyoming (Invited)
Corey Plunkett, Norfolk Southern
Chris Laddish, Kansas City Southern (Invited)
Bruce Emberly, Canadian National (Invited)
Rob Churma, Canadian Pacific



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

The Golf Tournament and Disney "Keys to the Kingdom" Tour are on Wednesday, October 15th & Winter Park Tour and Scenic Boat Ride along with the Morse Museum tour are on Thursday, October 16th. These activities are optional and require additional registrations. Minimum and Maximums must be met.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

OPTIONAL - RTA Golf Tournament

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Pre-event cost: \$195 At the event: \$225

The Grand Cypress Golf Club offers the largest selection of truly challenging links among Orlando golf resorts. The new 18-hole course, reminiscent of the Old Course at St. Andrews, brings Scottish Links to America, complete with 12-foot pot bunkers, stone walls and more.

OPTIONAL - Keys to the Kingdom Tour

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Pre-event cost: \$145 At the event: \$175

This 4.5 hour walking tour includes stops at backstage facilities and a variety of favorite attractions. Tour secret areas of Disney World with your exclusive guide and see how the Disney cast members create the magic using the Utilidors. Learn about Walt Disney's innovative ideas, revolutionary visions, secret

tunnels and amazing accomplishments!

For guests 16 years and older only.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

OPTIONAL - Spouse & Guest Hospitality Breakfast with party hats, fun & games

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

There is no additional fee for breakfast since this event is covered with the spouse/guest registration cost. Party Hat Event is also included in registration fees and is a must attend. Each guest will make two party hats to wear at the banquet that evening (one for themselves and one for their spouse).

OPTIONAL - Winter Park Tour Including Scenic Boat Ride & Stop At The Morse Museum Of American Art

10:15 AM - 3:15 PM

Pre-event cost: \$145 At the event: \$175

You'll explore the Park Avenue shopping district

where you can browse boutiques & art galleries, enjoy a scenic 45-minute boat ride through the canals and tree lined lakes, stop at the Morse Museum of American Art & learn about Louis Comfort Tiffany and his jewelry, pottery & paintings as well as the chapel interior he designed for the 1893 World Exposition.

RTA Banquet, Crazy Hat Night, plus "On The Spot" & "Whose line is it anyway?" 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

"On The Spot" is made up of professional improvisational performers who have launched the careers of many actors and comedians including Wayne Brady from ABC's "Who's Line is it Anyway?" and Paula Pell, a writer for NBC's "Saturday Night Live."

"Whose line is it anyway?" is very much like the TV show where the actors take suggestions from the audience and create songs and sketches based on those suggestions. (This group is the original cast at Disney's Pleasure Island.)