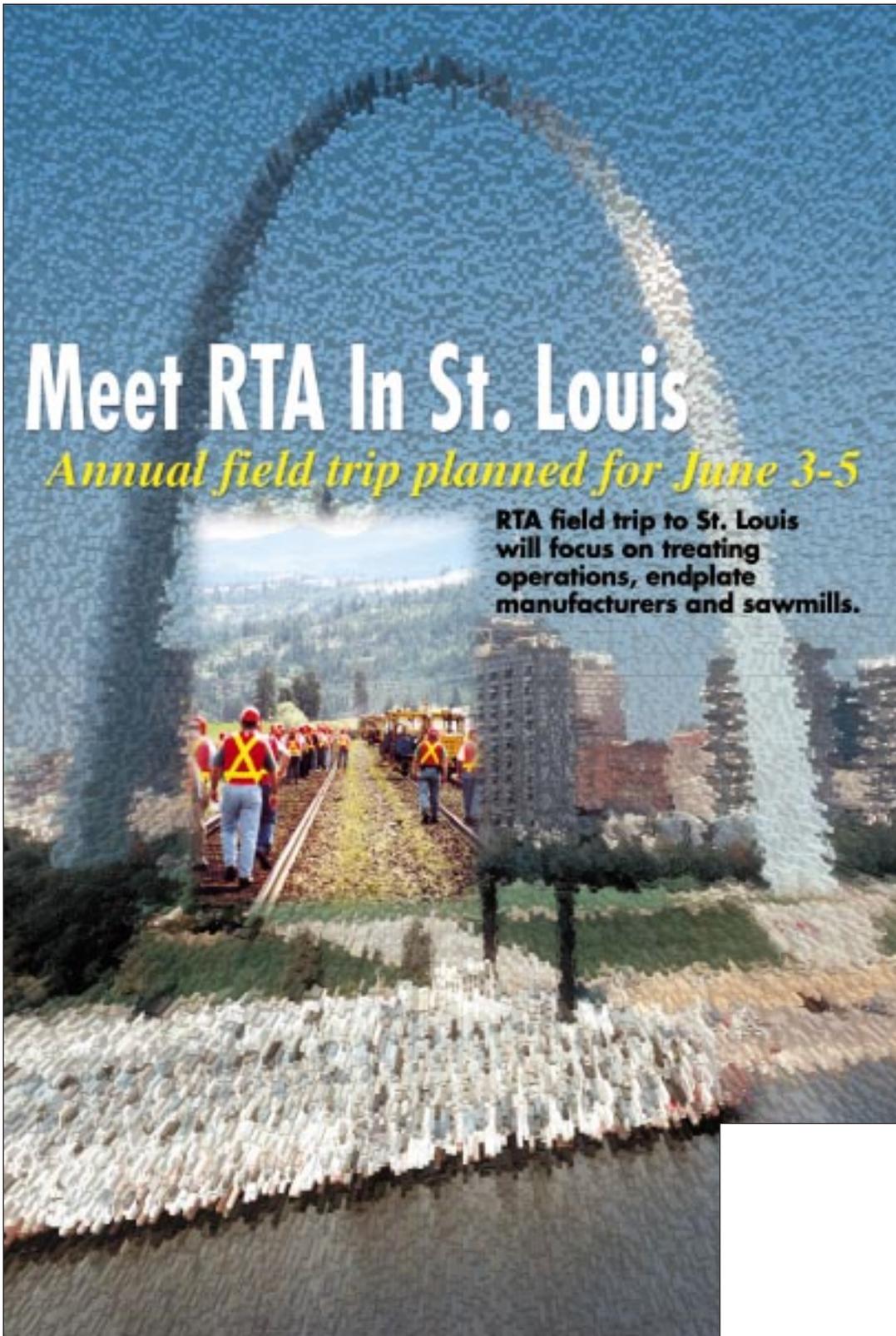


Crossties

The Magazine For Producers And Users Of Treated Wood Crossties And Related Products.

MARCH/APRIL 2001

REGISTER NOW FOR
ANNUAL RTA FIELD TRIP
SEE PAGE 10



Meet RTA In St. Louis

Annual field trip planned for June 3-5

RTA field trip to St. Louis will focus on treating operations, endplate manufacturers and sawmills.

Special Reports

RTA Executive Committee Approves Fiscally Responsible 2001 Budget

AWPA Meeting Programming Appeals To Wood Tie Industry

Supplier Coalition Supports Rail Interests

Wood Preservation Task Force Meets To Discuss Challenges & Opportunities

RTA Invites *All Members* To Join In 2001 Field Trip To Gateway City

Tie Trends Explores Forest Industry In Arkansas

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Meet RTA In St. Louis

*RTA Field Trip Planned
For June 3-5*

By Jim Gauntt

All RTA members are encouraged to join in on the annual RTA field trip centered in St. Louis, Mo., June 3-5.

This trip will allow attendees to explore industry facilities, discuss business opportunities, and see unique applications and handling and processing techniques for wood crossties.

This year, two area treating plants, two endplate manufacturing facilities, nearby railroad operations, sawmills and even an oak barrel manufacturing operation will highlight the list of site visits.

The goal of this association event is to offer railroaders, tie producers and other suppliers to the tie industry the opportunity to see how different manufacturing operations deal with the day-to-day operational challenges of tie production.

Each year, field trip attendees view various manufacturing components of the cradle-to-grave process in the life of wood crossties. Previous trips have included visits to logging operations, tie disposal facilities, sawmills and many other industry-related companies. This year, a focus will be on treating operations, endplate manufacturers and sawmills. MiTek and Robbins Engineering both have St. Louis area plants, and Kerr-McGee has two area treating operations.

The field trip will also include tours of railroad operations, at least one area sawmill, and a unique barrel manufacturing facility that serves the wine industry. There will also be the opportunity to see Mark McGwire and the St. Louis Cardinals play on Sunday, June 3.

There are no registration fees for the trip; all fees for transportation, the optional Cardinals game and miscellaneous expenses will be collected upon arrival based on the number in attendance. However, attendees who plan to go to the game should notify RTA of their intentions so that appropriate transportation and game plans can be made.

Please fill out the registration for on page 10 and fax it back to RTA today to ensure attendance at this educational RTA event: (770) 460-5573. For more information, call Debbie Holden at (770) 460-5553. §

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FIELD TRIP AGENDA & REGISTRATION FORM

Sunday, June 3

- Arrivals
- **2 p.m. - 3 p.m.:** Market Statistics Committee meeting
- **3 p.m. - 4 p.m.:** Manufacturing, Safety and Material Handling Committee meeting
- **5:30 p.m.:** Meet in lobby of Adam's Mark Hotel to go to Busch Stadium for optional baseball game

Monday, June 4

- **6:45 a.m.:** Depart hotel for Kerr-McGee Springfield plant tour (pizza lunch provided at plant at approximately 11:30 a.m.)
- **12:15 p.m.:** Depart for oak barrel manufacturing facility and sawmills along the way
- **4 p.m.:** Tour of Robbins Engineering
- **6:30 p.m.:** Return to hotel

Tuesday, June 5

- **7:30 a.m.:** Depart hotel for local railroad operations tour (site to be announced)
- Tour of Kerr-McGee's Madison plant following rail tours
- Lunch
- Tour of MiTek plant

- **4 p.m.:** Return to hotel

Please be advised that this is a tentative agenda and is subject to modification.

SPECIAL NOTE: Headquarters hotel that will be used for the entire stay will be the Adam's Mark St. Louis. To receive the \$119 block rate, you must make reservations before May 3, by calling (314) 241-7400. Please note that the Adam's Mark fills quickly in the summer due to Cardinal's home games. To ensure your room, make reservations as soon as possible.

Field Trip Notification Form

Yes, I will attend RTA's Annual Field Trip to St. Louis, MO

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure: _____
(Fax to RTA at (770) 460-5573)

MEMBERprofile

Appalachian Timber Prides Itself On Top-Notch Service

By Bonnie J. Gibbs

Supplying crossties and other creosoted timber railroad products to the railroad industry is something that Appalachian Timber Services Inc. has been perfecting for more than 20 years.

Founded in 1972 by Hal Burke and headquartered in Atlanta, the company supplies crossties, switch ties, bridge timbers and crossing panels to railroad contractors. According to company officials, clients have come to rely on Appalachian Timber's quick turnaround as well as its ability to meet deadlines, especially for out-of-the-ordinary tie requirements. And, because the company is not a high-volume supplier, officials said manufacturing to exacting specifications goes uninterrupted.

Sales Manager Rick Gibson said Appalachian Timber's association with RTA can be traced back to 1997, when former company president William Gadd was elected as RTA's president. Gibson said that as a member of RTA, his company benefits from the valuable information the association supplies. "We get market reports, industry trends and insider forecasts," he said. §

Robbins
Engineering
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