

Final Plans Under Way For Tie Grading Seminar

By Kristen McIntosh

The Railway Tie Association (RTA) is making final preparations for its 24th annual Crosstie Grading Seminar, slated for July 20-22 in the Fulton, Ky., area.

Fieldwork, including the Species Identification and Crosstie Grading Derby, will take place at Stella-Jones' treating plant in Fulton.

RTA Executive Director Jim Gauntt said the course has been designed to give tie-graders hands on experience, as well as in-depth instruction from some of the leading experts in wood technology, wood preservation and tie inspection.

"Instructors will spend time reviewing untreated wood deterioration, storage and handling, species identification, defects and grading, treating technology, and more," he said. "Most importantly, the practical aspects of tie grading have become the real focus of the instruction."

The seminar has been expanded to include three full days of instruction to accommodate a variety of learning experiences, including grading station videos, discussion and testing, as well as additional review sessions on species identification.

"We have worked very hard to increase



Make plans to attend the Railway Tie Association's Annual Tie Grading Seminar, slated for July 20-22 in Fulton, Ky. Fieldwork will take place at the Stella-Jones Plant. For more information, contact Debbie Corallo at dcorallo@rta.org, or call her at (770) 460-5553.

the time instructors have to spend one-on-one with students. The course length was extended to accommodate this and other enhancements to the agenda," said Marshall Allen, RTA's Education Committee chairman.

"A roster of distinguished experts in the forest products industry will provide seminar instruction," said Gauntt, who is also serving as an instructor. Other instructors include Terry Connors, associate exten-

sion professor at the University of Kentucky; John Zuspan, president of Track Guy Consultants; and Jimmy Watt, owner of The Crosstie Connection.

The cost of the seminar is \$525, which includes the price of the seminar, take-home materials, welcome reception Tuesday night, lunches and dinner Wednesday night. Attending non-members who represent railroads will also receive a complimentary one-year's subscription to *Crossties* magazine (a \$50 value).

Attendees should arrange for their own accommodations by the June 15 deadline through the Hampton Inn in Union City, Tenn., by calling (731) 885-8850.

Attendees must ask for the RTA room block during the registration process to receive the negotiated \$89 per night rate (not including tax) for a single room. The rate includes breakfast each morning.

RTA recommends making airline reservations early. "If you plan to fly, your best bet is via air to Memphis International Airport (MEM) and renting a car to drive the approximately 120 miles to the Hampton Inn," Gauntt said. \$

For More Information

Contact RTA Administrator
Debbie Corallo at dcorallo@rta.org
or (770) 460-5553.
A complete agenda is available at
www.rta.org.

CROSSTIE GRADING SEMINAR

July 20-22



Cut Here

Yes, I will be attending the **2010 TIE GRADING SEMINAR FOR \$525**

Please call the **Hampton Inn at the Union City, TN location** at **731.885.8850** to make your hotel reservations. The Railway Tie Association negotiated rate for a single room is **\$89/night + tax**. This rate includes breakfast each morning. Room block will be lifted **June 15th!** **Cancellations** received prior to June 15th will be refunded in full.

NAME _____
 COMPANY _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 TYPE OF BUSINESS _____
 PHONE _____ FAX _____
 E-MAIL _____
 ANTICIPATED ARRIVAL TIME _____

PAYMENT TYPE

- CHECK (make payable to Railway Tie Association)
- VISA, MASTERCARD, AMERICAN EXPRESS, DISCOVER

NAME ON CARD AND BILLING ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE:

TOTAL PAID _____
 CARD # _____
 EXP. DATE _____
 SECURITY CODE _____

3- or 4-digit validation code from back of card (Front of card for AMEX card holders)

Please include **\$525 REGISTRATION FEE** with this form and mail or fax to
 RTA, 115 Commerce Dr., Suite C, Fayetteville, GA
 30214 • Fax 770.460.5573

Register online at www.rta.org!