

# RTA & Tahoe...An Awesome Combination

## Make Plans To Attend RTA's 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Technical Conference In Scenic Lake Tahoe

The Railway Tie Association (RTA) will hold its 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium & Technical Conference Oct. 5-7 at the scenic Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Hotel in Incline Village, Nev. Registration is currently open at [www.rta.org](http://www.rta.org) or by completing the registration form that follows and faxing it to (770) 460-5573 or e-mailing it to [ties@rta.org](mailto:ties@rta.org). Those who register before the Sept. 1 deadline receive a \$50 discount.

The conference will kick off on Wednesday, Oct. 5, with the annual golf tournament on the Mountain Golf Course. Later in the evening, the President's Reception will be held on the shores of Lake Tahoe at the hotel.

"This year's conference promises to be another terrific opportunity for members to network with their peers as well as get the latest updates on the economy and its effect on the industry, research and development initiatives, purchasing plans from Class 1 railroads, railroad engineering initiatives, and other important issues related to the wood preserving and wood tie industries," said RTA Executive Director Jim Gauntt.

### Presentations & Panel Discussions

Enlightening presentations and panel discussions will be featured Thursday and Friday, beginning with a forum focused on economics.

Next up will be the Short Line and Regional Railroads Forum, which will also include a focus on Class 1 marketing efforts to this segment of the railroad network. This session will be keynoted by ASLRRRA's Richard Timmons.

A session addressing wood protection standards and environmental and governmental issues related to wood protection will follow and lead into the RTA General Business Session Luncheon.

During the luncheon, Bruce Vincent,

co-owner of Environomics, will be the featured speaker.

Vincent is known internationally for his commitment to rural community empowerment. Bruce has taken his message to a broad array of audiences—from bankers to loggers, and from fertilizer companies to auto manufacturers. Vincent has appeared on news programs including "60 Minutes" and the "McNeil Lehrer Hour", has been covered heavily by the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times* and has written for numerous publications. He is executive director of Provider Pals, a nationwide cultural exchange program that builds common ground, understanding and respect between urban youth, rural youth, and their natural resource providers. He is also an officer of Communities for a Great Northwest. In 2004, Vincent accepted the first Preserve America Presidential Award on behalf of Provider Pals.

Following the luncheon, several experts will participate in the forum titled, "Engineered Wood Solutions for Railroad Applications, including Dr. Habib Dagher, director of the Advanced Structures and Composites Center at the University of Maine; Dr. B.J. Yeh, director of the Technical Services Division for the APA-Engineered Wood Association; and Jeff Morrison of Rosboro LLC.

The Engineering Forum with Special AREMA Presidential Address will follow and include Class 1 engineers along with a presentation from AREMA's Robert Verhelle, deputy chief engineer of electric traction for Amtrak.

On Thursday evening, attendees will be treated to the Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony. "This year's annual banquet theme will be California "Chic" White," Gauntt said. "In the tradition of Old Hollywood White Parties, symposium



attendees will celebrate the season early by wearing all white to the banquet and awards ceremony. With the beautiful blue of Lake Tahoe showing through the windows at the Lakeside Ballroom at dusk, the evening promises to be a vision of the magic that surrounds the lake when the mountains are covered in snow."

On Friday, RTA's Research Forum and Class 1 Purchasing Forum titled, "What Have You Done for Me Lately," will close the symposium.

### Optional Activities Galore

Spousal and other optional activities will also take center stage at the symposium and include the golf tournament, a tour of the famous Whittell Estate on the east shore of Lake Tahoe, and an entertaining breakfast where guests will hear the tales of "The Women in Mark Twain's Life" as told by the original storyteller himself. Then, it's off for an afternoon of shopping, paddleboat cruising or hitting the casinos at South Lake Tahoe.

"With the modest cost of attending and all that RTA will offer in the business sessions and surrounding activities, industry participants cannot afford to miss this event," Gauntt said.

For more information about the symposium, hotel or optional activities, contact RTA at (770) 460-5553, [ties@rta.org](mailto:ties@rta.org) or [www.rta.org](http://www.rta.org). ■

# 2011 RTA SYMPOSIUM & TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

## OCTOBER 5-7, 2011

# A G E N D A

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2011

8:00 a.m. **RTA GOLF TOURNAMENT** - Mountain Golf Course  
(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**

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2011

7:45 - 8:00 a.m. **RTA GENERAL BUSINESS SESSION & WELCOME**

#### 8:00 - 9:15 a.m. **THE ECONOMY**

- **Beth Ann Bovino**, Chief Economist, Standard & Poor's
- **Anthony Hatch**, President, ABH Consulting
- **Mark Barford**, Executive Director, National Hardwood Lumber Association

9:15 - 9:30 a.m. **VENDOR-MERCIALS**  
Vendor Sponsored 3-Minute Presentations  
(must sign up in advance)

#### 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. **SHORT LINE & REGIONAL RAILROADS FORUM WITH FOCUS ON CLASS 1 MARKETING EFFORTS**

- **Richard Timmons**, President, American Short Line & Regional Railroad Association
- **Jalene Forbis**, Executive Director, California Short Line Railroad Association
- **Chris Spiceland**, System Manager - Short Line Marketing, Norfolk Southern
- **Eric Jakubowski**, Director Network Strategies Partner Southern Region, Canadian National
- **John Newman**, AVP, Network & Industrial Development, Union Pacific Railroad

10:45 - Noon **STANDARDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/GOVERNMENTAL FORUM**  
■ **Colin McCown**, Executive Director, American Wood Protection Association  
■ **Bob Fronczak**, AVP Environment & Hazardous Material, Association of American Railroads  
■ **Ted LaDoux**, Executive Director, Western Wood Preservers Institute  
■ **Martin Rollins**, President, HM Rollins Co., Inc.

Noon - 2:00 p.m. **RTA GENERAL BUSINESS SESSION LUNCHEON**  
■ **Bruce Vincent**, Environomics and Industry Activist

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. **ENGINEERED WOOD SOLUTIONS FOR RAILROAD APPLICATIONS FORUM**

- **Dr. Habib Dagher**, Director of Advanced Structures & Composites Center, University of Maine
- **Dr. BJ Yeh**, Director, Technical Services Division, APA-Engineered Wood Association
- **Jeff Morrison**, Rosboro, LLC

3:00 - 3:15 p.m. **VENDOR-MERCIALS**  
Vendor Sponsored 3-Minute Presentations  
(must sign up in advance)

#### 3:15 - 5:00 p.m. **ENGINEERING SESSION with Special AREMA Presidential Address**

- **Robert Verhelle**, Deputy Chief Engineer Electric Traction, Amtrak
- **John Bosshart**, BNSF
- **Jeff McCracken**, Norfolk Southern
- **Todd Wimmer**, Union Pacific
- **Dale Ophardt**, CSX Transportation
- **David Ferryman**, Canadian National

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

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2011

8:15 - 10:50 a.m. **THE RESEARCH**  
■ **Carmen Trevizo**, Engineer, Transportation Technology Center  
■ **Dr. Allan Zarembski**, Vice President and General Manager, Zeta Tech  
■ **Tim Carey**, Industrial Products Specialist, Arch Wood Protection, Inc.  
■ **Dr. Adam Taylor**, Professor, Tennessee Forest Products Center  
■ **Wilfred Vacheresse**, President, The Vach Group  
■ **Steve Smith**, Consultant, AquAeTer, Inc.  
■ **Mike Mancione**, VP-NA Operations, Carbon Materials & Chemicals Division, Koppers Inc.

10:50 - 12:30 p.m. **CLASS 1 PURCHASING SESSION**  
■ **Chad Rolstad** - BNSF  
■ **Gary Hunter** - Union Pacific  
■ **Lisa Pleasants** - CSX Transportation  
■ **Doug Clary** - Norfolk Southern  
■ **Bruce Emberly** - Canadian National  
■ **Rob Churma** - Canadian Pacific

### SPOUSE AND OTHER OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

First two events are on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> & at an extra cost-minimums and maximums required. The Spouse & Guest Hospitality & Optional Tour takes place during the Main Business Session and Luncheon on Thursday.

**1 - RTA Golf Tournament.** Golf on one of the most beautiful courses ever...Mountain Golf Course. Carved out of the pines with no harsh transition areas and no artificial landscaping, this course is all natural and a real challenge and joy to play. It's a tribute to its brilliant designer, Robert Trent Jones, Jr., and is consistently ranked in the top 5 executive courses in America.

**2 - Thunderbird Lodge Guided Tour.** Take a fascinating journey through the famous Whittell Estate on the east shore of Lake Tahoe. Guests are provided a peek into the gilded-age lifestyle of the fabulously wealthy George Whittell, his legend and the legacy

he left behind. Stories will come to life as guests discover the Lighthouse Room, Old Lodge, the servant's quarters with original kitchen, the zoo he kept on property, as well as a trip through the 600' underground tunnel leading to the infamous Boathouse and Card House where he played poker with Ty Cobb, Frank Sinatra, and Howard Hughes.

**3 - Spouse & Guest Hospitality & Shopping On Your Own.** The morning will start with an entertaining spouse breakfast hosted by none other than Mark Twain! Guests will enjoy hearing the tales of "The Women in Mark Twain's Life" as told by the Original Storyteller himself! Then, it's off for an afternoon of shopping, paddle boat cruising or hitting the casinos in South Lake Tahoe. The optional luncheon cruise on the *Dixie Queen* will be followed by time on your own for sightseeing, shopping, or other "fun." You won't want to miss picking up those one-of-a-kind souvenirs to take home as a keepsake of your wonderful time in Tahoe! So, if you don't want to shop, you can check out the casinos at South Lake Tahoe, Harvey's, Harrah's, and more.



## TAHOE...TAHOE... IT'S OFF TO LEARN WE GO

Sierras' summit a spectacular site for glamour, learning, and recreation.

The Railway Tie Association will shine the bright white spotlight on the latest industry information at its 93rd Annual Symposium and Technical Conference with breathtaking Lake Tahoe and the Sierra Nevada Mountains as the backdrop. Catch the latest crosstie trends and developments, and take a break to soak in this special mountain paradise where pampering and sightseeing are second to none.

### THE SIERRAS WILL BE ECHOING INDUSTRY THOUGHT-LEADERS SHARING:

*The latest track and wood treatment research*  
*Class 1 Engineering, Short Line Marketing and Purchasing*  
*Industry-specific economic reports*  
*Lively interactive discussions*  
*Engineered wood solutions for railroads*  
*Lunchtime keynote address by forest activist Bruce Vincent*



**Be there when the sun rises and sets over the snow-capped peaks.** Learn, network, golf, tour the Thunderbird Lodge, and enjoy a special South Tahoe outing and paddleboat cruise. Bring your dress whites, for sure, to be in high style at this year's California "Chic" White Gala where the banquet will be joined by "Old Hollywood" entertainers. This is the RTA conference you definitely don't want to miss!

*Learn, network and be  
entertained at 2011's  
best industry event:*

**RAILWAY TIE ASSOCIATION  
93RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**OCTOBER 5-7, 2011**

**HYATT REGENCY  
LAKE TAHOE RESORT  
INCLINE VILLAGE,  
NEVADA**



**THE RAILWAY TIE ASSOCIATION  
115 COMMERCE DRIVE, SUITE C  
FAYETTEVILLE, GA 30214  
VOICE: (770) 460-5553  
FAX: (770) 460-5573  
WWW.RTA.ORG**

© 2011 THE RAILWAY TIE ASSOCIATION