

RTA Conference In Tampa Promises To Engage, Enlighten & Entertain

By Kristen McIntosh

The Railway Tie Association (RTA) will hold its 94th Annual Symposium and Technical Conference Oct. 23-25 at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel and Marina in Tampa, Fla.

Registration is open at 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. Those who register before the Aug. 31 deadline will receive a \$50 discount.

The conference will kick off on Tuesday, Oct. 23, with the annual RTA Golf Tournament at the Emerald Greens Golf Resort and Country Club. Even though the course is near Dale Mabry Highway and numerous local attractions, it is a peaceful one that rolls through pine and cypress trees.

Later, the annual President's Cocktail Reception will take place aboard the luxurious Yacht Starship. National Salvage & Service Corp is sponsoring the reception.

On Wednesday, Oct. 24, the day will begin early with the RTA General Business Session and Welcome before moving into a series of sessions and presentations.

"All of the most timely issues related to the wood tie industry will be pre-

sented in such a way that will engage and inform attendees," said RTA Executive Director Jim Gauntt.

"Research on new wood preservatives, a review of remedial tie treatment advancements, and disposal for ties treated with the newest wood preservatives are highlights of the technical sessions. Other sessions will provide a snapshot of new construction and maintenance of way activities, review the economy and its effect on the wood tie industry, and explore export markets for wood ties."

Presentations & Panel Discussions

Enlightening presentations and panel discussions will be featured on Thursday and Friday, beginning with a forum focused on the economy and its effect on the wood tie industry.

Next up will be the Short Line and Regional Railroad Forum, a discussion of export markets for hardwoods and export tie market data, and a focus on sawmill and forestry issues.

Following the RTA General Business Session Luncheon keyed by Wick Moorman, president and CEO of Norfolk Southern and *Railway Age's* 2011 Railroader of the Year, sessions will focus on the state of tie disposal

and an update on new construction projects the Class 1's are undertaking now and in the coming months.

Once the sessions are completed on Wednesday, attendees will be treated to the Annual RTA Banquet and Awards Ceremony. This year's theme is "The Return of Gasparilla, A Pirate Mardi Gras," which will include an interactive



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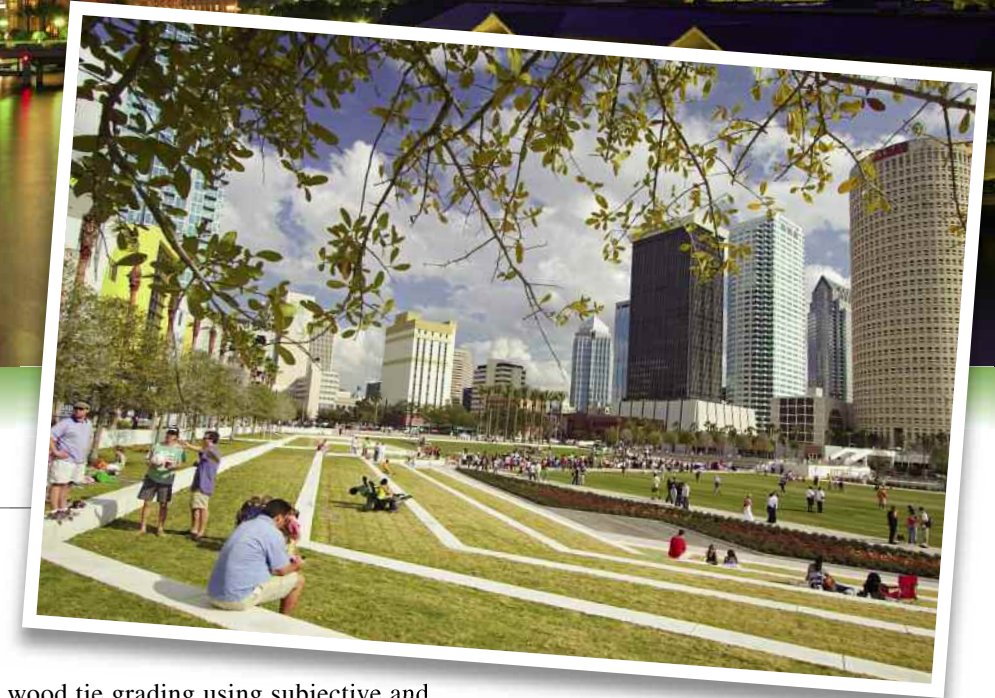


Guests can enjoy Tampa's beautiful vistas such as the Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, and the downtown waterfront area.

game show experience for everyone to enjoy. "Our superbly entertaining awards banquet will test the audience's knowledge of trivia with finalists playing in the final lightning round on stage," Gauntt said.

Thursday's sessions will begin bright and early with the Wood Preservation Forum, which will provide an update on creosote availability, the cellulose treatment dip process, remedial tie treatments, and fixed and non-fixed boron/wood research.

Also included will be a session on



wood tie grading using subjective and objective methodologies as well as a Class 1 Purchasing Forum that will unveil the Class 1's tie purchasing plans for the coming year.

And There's More...

During the evening hours, attendees will be able to continue networking with colleagues at sponsored hospitality suites.

Other fun activities include a trap-shooting event coordinated by American trap shooting coach and instructor Bill Smith. The event promises

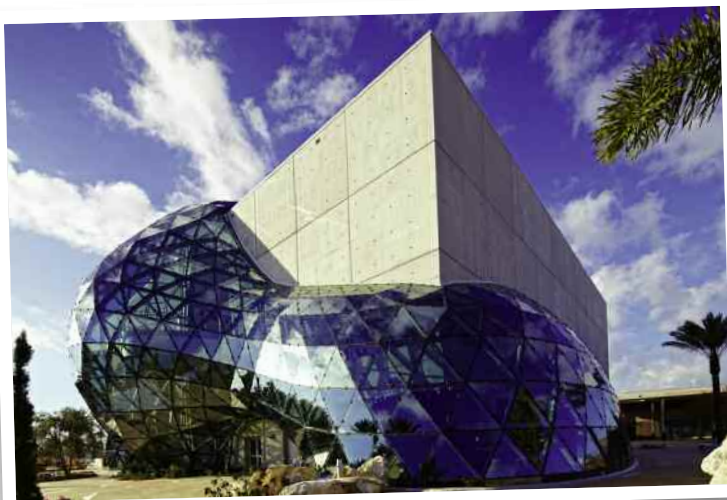
Optional activities include a visit to the recently renovated Salvador Dali Museum, which houses the most comprehensive collection of his works.

to be a winner for the beginning or experienced shooter, with the final three rounds counting toward prizes.

Attendee guests have the option of participating in a fascinating journey through the 45-acre Big Cat Rescue wildlife sanctuary that is home to 140 cats representing 16 species. All of the cats that call the sanctuary home are endangered or are in danger of becoming extinct.

Another fun option is an informative breakfast that will identify the fun activities in the city. Following this presentation is a visit to the Salvador Dali Museum, which houses the world's most comprehensive collection of his works. Later, the group will tour St. Petersburg's beautiful Sunken Gardens.

"This symposium promises great golf, excellent spouse programs and engaging sessions for all facets of the wood tie industry," Gauntt said. "I urge all members to register today." ■





SYMPOSIUM & TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

October 23-25, 2012 | SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

8:00 a.m.	RTA GOLF TOURNAMENT Emerald Greens Golf Resort & Country Club <i>(Additional activities for attendees during golf outing - see end of page)</i>	3:00 - 6:00 p.m.	RTA GUEST-SPONSORED HOSPITALITY SUITES	5:00 - 7:30 p.m.	PRESIDENT'S COCKTAIL RECEPTION CRUISE ON TAMPA BAY - Sponsored by National Salvage & Service Corp.
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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

7:45 - 8:00 a.m.	RTA GENERAL BUSINESS SESSION AND WELCOME		Wick Moorman, President/CEO, Norfolk Southern
8:00 - 8:40 a.m.	ECONOMICS Anita Ogbara, Director in Corporate Ratings Group, Standard & Poor's	2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	THE STATE OF TIE DISPOSAL Jason Feagans, Railroad Division Manager, National Salvage & Service Corp. Jeff Lloyd, VP International Research Group, Nisus Corp. Bob Gruber, Director, Regulatory & Industry Affairs, Arch Wood Protection - A Lonza Company Bill Taylor, Manager Resource Recovery, DTE Energy Services Steve Smith, Technical Director, AquAeTer Inc.
8:40 - 8:55 a.m.	VENDOR-MERCIALS Vendor-Sponsored 3-Minute Presentations <i>(Must sign up in advance)</i>		VENDOR-MERCIALS Vendor-Sponsored 3-Minute Presentations <i>(Must sign up in advance)</i>
8:55 - 9:45 a.m.	SHORT LINE & REGIONAL RAILROAD FORUM Mike Ogburn, Managing Director, OmniTrax Tony Reck, President/CEO, Paducah & Louisville Railway Scott Linn, Vice President SE Region, RailAmerica Inc. Tony Cox, VP of Engineering for Watco Companies	3:00 - 3:15 p.m.	ENGINEERING FORUM FOCUSED ON NEW CONSTRUCTION & AREMA PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS James Carter, Chief Engineer Bridges & Structures, Norfolk Southern Brian Large, BNSF Jeff McCracken, Norfolk Southern Todd Wimmer, Union Pacific Dale Ophardt, CSX Transportation (Invited) Jim McLeod, Canadian National (Invited) Gord Pozzobon, Canadian Pacific (Invited)
9:45 - 10:15 a.m.	EXPORT MARKETS FOR HARDWOODS & EXPORT TIE MARKET DATA Mike Snow, Executive Director, American Hardwood Export Council	3:15 - 5:15 p.m.	ANNUAL RTA BANQUET & AWARDS CEREMONY <i>The Return of Gasparilla, A Pirate Mardi Gras with Game Show</i>
10:15 - 12:15 p.m.	SAWMILL & FORESTRY ISSUES Teddy Reynolds, President, Reynolds Forestry & Jim Rosson, Research Forester, USDA, "Relationships Between Hardwood Tree Inventory, Tie Mill Locations, and Tie Demand"		
12:15 - 2:00 p.m.	RTA GENERAL BUSINESS SESSION LUNCHEON	7:00 p.m.	

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25

8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	WOOD PRESERVATION FORUM Jeff Morrell, Professor, Oregon State University, "Oil's Well that Ends Well" Adam Taylor, Professor, Tennessee Forest Products Center, "Commercializing the Cellulose Dip Process" Shane Kitchens, Manager, TASKpro, "Revisiting Remedial Tie Treatments, etc." Mark Manning, Director, Market Development, U.S. Borax, "Fixed and Non-Fixed Boron/Wood Research"
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	OTHER RESEARCH Greg Grissom, VP Engineering, Georgetown Rail Equipment Mark Huston, Asst. Director Maintenance Planning, BNSF, "Wood Tie Grading Using Subjective & Objective Methodologies"
10:30 - 12:15 p.m.	CLASS 1 PURCHASING FORUM Chad Rolstad, BNSF (Invited) Gary Hunter, Union Pacific (Invited) Lisa Pleasants, CSX Transportation Jon Zillioux, Norfolk Southern Bruce Emberly, Canadian National (Invited) Rob Churma, Canadian Pacific

SPOUSE/GUEST AND OTHER OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

First two events are on Tuesday, October 23rd & at an extra cost—minimums and maximums required. The Spouse & Guest Hospitality & Optional Tour takes place during the Main Business Session and Luncheon on Wednesday.

1 - RTA GOLF TOURNAMENT Golf at Tampa's Premier Golf Resort & Country Club. Even though Emerald Greens is close to Dale Mabry Highway and numerous local attractions, it's a peaceful course that rolls through pine and cypress trees.

2 - TRAP SHOOTING EVENT This exciting adventure will be available for up to 15 people and will be coordinated, once again, by American trap shooting coach & instructor Bill Smith. The first round of the 25 will handicap the event, with the remaining 3 rounds counting toward any prizes. This should be a great event for the beginner or experienced shooter!

3 - BIG CAT RESCUE Take a fascinating journey through the 45-acre wildlife sanctuary that is home to 140 cats representing 16 species of wild cats. You will be able to see Lions, Tigers, Geoffroy Cats, Jungle Cats, Caracals, Snow Leopards, Bobcats, Lynx and more! All of these cats are endangered or in danger of becoming so and, in many cases, their numbers have dwindled to only a few remaining. Learn the history behind these furry friends and how they came to call Big Cat Rescue home.

4 - SPOUSE & GUEST HOSPITALITY & SHOPPING ON YOUR OWN The morning will start with an entertaining and informative breakfast and CVB PowerPoint presentation of the Tampa area. Following this will be a visit to the world-famous Salvador Dali Museum—which is home of the world's most comprehensive collection of his works. A guide will take you through the life of Dali and the various artistic stages of his work ending with a presentation of his master works. Next stop is an afternoon of touring St. Petersburg's beautiful Sunken Gardens. You will explore this lush botanical paradise as you stroll through history discovering some of the oldest plant specimens in the region.



AHOY, CROSSTIE CREW!

STEP TO! MEET ME HEARTIES AT THE 94TH ANNUAL RTA SYMPOSIUM & TECHNICAL CONFERENCE IN TAMPA, FLORIDA — OCTOBER 23-25.

We don't know if it's true that legendary pirate Jose Gaspar, "The Last of the Buccaneers," actually left a treasure off the Florida coast, but we do know that there will be a treasure of learning and networking at the upcoming 94th Annual RTA Symposium & Technical Conference at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina.

This year, one of the railroad industry's premier events takes place in Tampa, where you'll balance business (with presentations ranging from exports and forestry to engineering and preservation) and pleasure (with plenty of golf, theme parks, beaches, and fishing in the area).

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- the latest track research
- hardwood industry update
- lively interactive discussions
- legislative reports
- plus the RTA General Business Luncheon, featuring Wick Moorman, President and CEO of Norfolk Southern

Don't miss Wednesday evening's Annual RTA Banquet and Awards Ceremony: "The Return of Gasparilla, A Pirate Mardi Gras." We promise the food will be better than hardtack, cackle fruit, and salmagundi.



Learn, network and be entertained at 2012's best industry event:

**RAILWAY TIE ASSOCIATION
94TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

OCTOBER 23-25, 2012

**TAMPA MARRIOTT
WATERSIDE HOTEL & MARINA
TAMPA, FLORIDA**



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WWW.RTA.ORG**

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ARRRREGISTER AT WWW.RTA.ORG OR CALL 770.460.5553 FOR MORE INFORMATION, BUCKOS.



SYMPOSIUM & TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

Join Us In Tampa, Florida | October 23-25, 2012

Early Registration Information for the **94th Annual Conference**

NOTE: CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES COVER ALL MEETINGS, BUSINESS LUNCHEON, PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION, AND ANNUAL BANQUET.
Please complete both the Registration AND Golf form if you want to play in the golf tournament.

Reserve Your Hotel:

**Tampa Marriott
Waterside Hotel & Marina**
Make your reservations now!

There is no guarantee of a room beyond Sept. 15, 2012.

Make hotel reservations under the RTA Room Block by calling 1-888-268-1616 or 1-813-221-4900 outside the U.S. **Room rate \$169.**

Early registration ends Aug. 31. Late registration surcharges: Additional \$50 per person after Aug. 31.

Full refund prior to Aug. 31. **No refunds after Aug. 31.**

Reserve Your Space:

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (Golf registration form is at the bottom)

Name _____ Company _____
TO APPEAR ON BADGE

Address _____ Phone _____
IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD, PLEASE USE ADDRESS ON CARD

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Business) Email: _____ Spouse Name (if attending) _____

(Personal) Email _____ (Use address you want confirmation e-mailed to)

PLEASE CHECK ALL FEES THAT APPLY. YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FEES MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.

- Producer, Supplier, Contractor & Consulting Member \$395
- Associate Member \$275
- Non-Member—Railroad, Government & Academic \$395
- Non-Member—Other \$595
- Spouse Participation (Fee to attend any conference events.) \$195
(Spouse/Guest Hospitality Breakfast at Hotel on Wednesday, Oct. 24th)
- Salvador Dali Museum and Sunken Gardens Tour – for Spouses/Guests (Follows hospitality breakfast) \$135

Optional Events For All (Additional fees are required.)

These All Take Place on Tuesday, October 23rd – Except for the Spouse Function (above)

- Golf Tournament - **Tuesday Oct. 23rd** *(Fill out form below.)* \$155
- Trap Shooting Event (limited to 15) – (Gun Rental & Ammo are extra) \$95
- Big Cat Rescue Tour \$110

****Minimums & Maximums Are In Effect So Advanced Registration is Necessary****
Tours are not guaranteed to run if minimums are not met.

TOTAL PAYMENT (Include spouse fees & any optional tours or golf fee) \$ _____ U.S.

Payment Type:

CHECK

CREDIT CARD

Card # _____

Exp Date _____

Name On Card _____

3 digit CVC on back of card _____

4 digit CVC on front of AMEX _____

Billing Zip/Postal Code if different from above: _____

NOTE: Presenters and attendees who are RTA members need to check the box that corresponds to their membership type and submit that fee.

RTA GOLF REGISTRATION PLEASE SUBMIT ONE FORM PER GOLFER

Emerald Greens Golf Resort — (813) 961-1369 • Golf Chairman-Jason Feagans • (812) 339-9000

Tuesday, October 23, 2012 • RTA Tournament - Shotgun start format \$155 each player.

This is a soft-spike course. Collared shirts are required and cut-offs aren't allowed. Please note rental clubs are limited—only advance reservations can be considered. To reserve clubs, contact Daren Johnson at (813) 961-1369.

Name _____ Company _____ Handicap _____

If you have preferred playing partners for main tournament list them below (Each must register separately.)

1. Your Name: _____ 2. Preferred Partner: _____

3. Preferred Partner: _____ 4. Preferred Partner: _____

Return this form with all registration fees to:

Railway Tie Association
115 Commerce Dr.,
Suite C
Fayetteville, GA 30214

(P) 770-460-5553
(F) 770-460-5573

To submit form electronically, e-mail to:
ties@rta.org