

Tampa 2012

Blue Skies, Warm Weather, Good Friends...

RTA Conference Brings Them All Together

Situated right on Tampa Bay, the beautiful Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel and Marina was the site of the 94th Annual Railway Tie Association Conference.

With blue skies and warm weather prevailing, the record-breaking number of industry executives and guests who attended the conference were able to experience the local flavor at several local sites, including the Salvador Dali Museum, the Sunken Gardens in St. Petersburg, golf at the Emerald Greens Golf Resort and Country Club, and more.

Attendees were also treated to an evening

cruise on Tampa Bay aboard the Yacht Starship for the President's Reception. Conversations about the uniqueness of the reception continued throughout the conference.

Attendees also benefited from networking with their peers on the trade show floor, learning about the newest treatment developments, and hearing their railroad partners share plans for purchasing, major construction projects, and what they need most from their supplier partners.

On the pages that follow are highlights from the conference. Couldn't make it



this year? Make plans to attend next year's conference, scheduled for Oct. 9-11 at the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe in Incline Village, Nev.

Photos courtesy of Gary Coleman. See a full gallery at www.rta2012.colemanphotography.com. ■

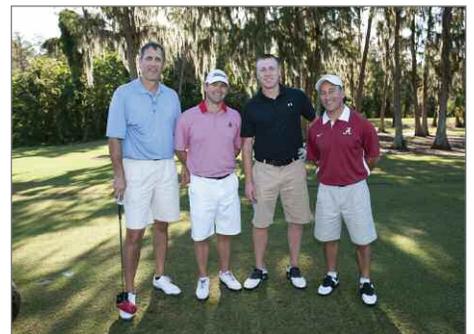
Golf Tournament & Trap Shooting



Bob Gruber, Sandy Miller, Kate Nidasio & Jeff Miller.



Frank Wilson, Tim & Mary Ries and Bob Madderom.



Tom Somerville, Chad Rolstad, Kevin Conkright & Todd Nicholson.



Geno Huenik, Gene Wilcutt, Jim Renfroe & Steve Bolte.



Group getting final instructions from Bill Smith before the trap tournament.



Bill Smith looking on as Ashley Bosch takes aim.

Spouse Event & Big Cat Rescue



RTA Ladies stop for group shot while touring the Dali Museum.



The group gets some "flora" education while visiting the Sunken Gardens in St. Pete.



Luckily, this mountain lion was on the other side of the wire!



This is a "Frankenstein cat" – the rescue calls him this because he looks like he is made up of various "spare parts."



This leopard's piercing eyes followed visitors around as they visited the other animals!

President's Reception



Stacey & David Hatfield of McCreary County Hardwoods



John Heller with Scott McBride, Gary Hunter & Arne Arneson.



John McGinley with Bob Baepler.



Phil Heusler with Gene Huenink.



Terry Good with Andy and Joan Thompson.



Skipper Beal with Bill Moss.



Rachel Strong with Kathleen Broadfoot.



Joe Dowd, Chuck Kraynik & James Hardeman.



Bob Baepler, Ryan Simmons, Grady Brafford & John Reaves.



Kevin Hicks, Rigi Chackaland, Steve Bolte & Ashley Bosch.

President's Reception



Jeff Songer with Jeff Lloyd.



Sara Rzewnicki and Ron Martin with Chad Rolstad.



Gary Hunter with George & Christopher Caric.



The President's Reception cruise drew one of the largest crowds ever!



Jeff Parrett is showing off RTA's new conference app!



Mary and John Erwin.



James Carter with Peg Gillium.



Mark Manning with Samantha Lloyd.

Wednesday Business Session



Gary Williams, Ken Laughlin and Buddy Downey get ready for opening session.



Kris Hedding with Mike Neidert.



Group listens while Robert Sumwalt of the NTSB speaks about leading organizations safely.

Wednesday Business Session *continued...*



Dave Webb with Tim Harmon & Vince Opaskar.



Jeff Lee and Robert Pearce looking at the new RTA app on their smartphone.



Tony Cox with Bob Madderom.



Ben Chapman with Paul Avery.



George Sokulski, Jonathan Chalon and Mischa Wanek-Libman discuss convention press coverage.



Jason Feagans with Bill Taylor.



Tim Harmon getting a tech lesson from Jessica Levin.



Lisa Pleasants, Gary Williams and Tom Loadman enjoying the special luncheon address by Wick Moorman, CEO of Norfolk Southern.



Moorman addresses a packed house.



Previous President and Executive Committee member John McGinley gives the resolutions report.



Retired RTA President and Executive Committee member Janet Seaman gives the luncheon invocation.



Alexa and Shane Boatright are recognized for their gift of the "Eat Steel and Spit Rivets" book to all luncheon attendees. The book chronicles the last 30 years of the Norfolk Southern Railroad.



The conference gavel is passed from outgoing President Jeff Broadfoot to the new RTA President for 2012-2014, Jeff Parrett.

Wednesday Business Session *continued...*



The Tie Disposal panel enjoys a lively discussion.



Many thanks to Doug Delmonico of Encore Rail, Mike Goldston of Brewco Inc. and...



...Brian McElwain of P&G Manufacturing and Jim Renfroe of Wood Care Systems for their interesting and informative vendor-mercial presentations.



The Class 1 Engineering Forum featuring this year's AREMA presidential address by...



...James Carter of Norfolk Southern is always an informative and well-attended session.



First-time attendee and new RTA member Jack Waggener chats with Steve Smith before the morning session begins.



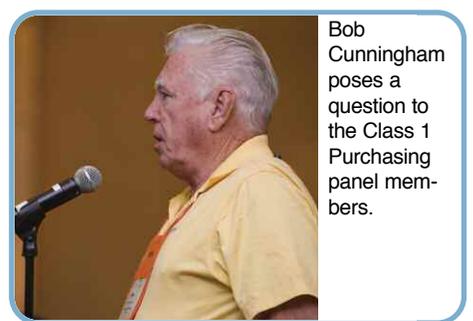
Jack Fonville, Jack Hughes and Jim Renfroe enjoy the sponsored breakfast. John Giallonardo is in the background.



Dr. Lou Honary with Federico Tripodi.



Bob Baeppler and Tim Carey talk with Dr. Jeff Morrell.



Bob Cunningham poses a question to the Class 1 Purchasing panel members.



Incoming President Jeff Parrett presents outgoing President Jeff Broadfoot with his plaque of appreciation for a job well done!



Old friends George Caric and Marshall Allen say goodbye as this year's conference comes to an end.



President Jeff Parrett officially closes the 94th RTA Conference.

Awards Banquet



RTA President Jeff Broadfoot presenting David Connell of Union Pacific the 2012 Branding Hammer award plaque.



Broadfoot presenting Harry Scott—retired from Thompson Industries—the Broad Axe award plaque.



Broadfoot presenting Gerald “Clown” Ingle of Ingle Sawmill the 2012 RTA Silver Saw plaque.



Outgoing board member Gary Williams of Koppers Inc. was recognized by Broadfoot, on behalf of the RTA, for his years of service on the Executive Committee.



Bob and Josie Cunningham with Paula Rogers.



Jeanie and Buddy Downey take time out from their hat “duty” to pose with Gasparilla the pirate.



Jeff Parrett and Gary Williams helped our local pirate pass out beads to the guests.



Bob Gruber shows off his new jewelry.



Steve Smith and Tom Niederberger discussing which one will “walk the plank” first!



Phil Heusler and Gayle & Heide Minkler with Kevin Hicks.



Best costume winners Lisa & Lance Pleasants pose with James Beyerl and George Caric.



Pirates Jeff Miller and Jeff Lloyd preparing for a duel.



Marshall Allen packing some poison.



Game show contestants Charlie Crosby, Ron Lang and Susan Gauntt.

Exhibitors & Vendors



Rachel Strong with Ryan Holmes of National Sales & Service Corp. who sponsored two tabletop displays again this year.



Dave Koch of Wheeler Lumber Co.



Tony Chambers and Chip Hughes in front of their Nisus display.



Mark Manning talks with Bill Holberg of Encore Rail Systems.



Peder Arneson with David Piper of Brewco, Inc.



Denny Goshert and Wilmer Hurst of Pendu Manufacturing talk to an attendee about their products.



Lonza/Arch Wood Exhibitors Bob Baeppler, Tim Carey and Grady Brafford chat with Jerry Farley (second from left) of JH Baxter.



John Heller talks with Rob Hobson of SH Coatings.



CS Industries display.



Brewer Inc. Display



Robert Pierce of Lee Inspection talks with Dr. Adam Taylor.



James Beyerl talks with Brian McElwain and Johnny Clark of P&G Manufacturing.



Rob Bannister and Alicia Bitner talk with Jim Renfroe of Wood Care Systems.



Mike Bergman and Barry Black of Taylor Machine Works talk with Rob Bannister.

A Special Thanks To RTA's 2012 Sponsors & Exhibitors

Company	Sponsoring	Company	Sponsoring	Company	Sponsoring
Acme	Conference signage	Herzog	Silver level golf	NRC	Photography
Allan Railroad Services	Bronze level golf	KMG-Bernuth	Business luncheon	Omaha Track Material	Golf tournament beverages, silver level
Amsted	Banquet prizes	Koppers Inc.	Banquet event, conference bag, gold level golf		golf
Appalachian Timber	Coffee break		Conference programs	Pandrol	Bronze level golf
Arch/Lonza	Continental breakfast	Lone Star Specialties	Speakers' gift	Pacific Wood Preserving	Transportation
BNSF	Bronze level golf	Mellott Wood Preserving	Silver level golf	Pendu	Continental breakfast
Boatright	Banquet bar, gold level golf	Missouri Tie	Conference gift	RailWorks	Continental breakfast
		Mitek Industries	President's reception, name badges	Stella-Jones	Business luncheon, silver level golf
Brewco	Bronze level golf	National Salvage	Room key		Bronze level golf
Canadian Pacific Railway	Gift card		Bronze level golf	Somerville	Coffee break
C.S. Industries	Gift card	Nisus Corp.	Gold level golf	Taylor Machine Works	Bronze level golf
CSX Transportation	Refreshments	Norfolk Southern		Union Pacific	Bronze level golf
Eagle Metal	Premium gift	North American Tie & Timber		Wheeler Lumber	General sponsorship
Gross & Janes	Audio/visual				

Exhibitors

Brewco
Brewer Inc.
C.S. Industries
Encore Rail

Lee Inspection
Lonza
National Salvage
Nisus

P&G Manufacturing
Pendu
SH Coatings
Taylor Machine Works

Wheeler Lumber
Wood Care Systems

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