

SAFETY FIRST

RTA Convenes In-Person Meetings For 2021 By Ashley Goodin

I believe we can all agree that 2020 was not what any of us ever expected. This was particularly true when it came to in-person meetings for businesses and associations.

While we are still working on modified schedules and juggling all of our various responsibilities, the recent survey of RTA members clearly stated that members want

and need in-person meetings, and soon. plan to meet safely. This will include enough space to allow for distancing between attendees as well as following all other applicable guidelines and rules for our host properties at the time of these events.



Students at work at the annual Tie Grading Seminar.

and need in-person meetings, and soon.

With that in mind, RTA is moving forward with three in-person meetings for you this year. Barring federal, state or local closures that would prevent us from holding these events, we will proceed with a

Please save the dates for the following events and stay tuned to RTA.org/events for registration details.

June 7-9, 2021 – RTA Solutions Symposium, The Florence Center, Florence, S.C.

RTA's Solutions Symposium will feature a trade show of equipment focused on saw-mills and crosstie production. The opening keynote will be presented by Damon West who will focus on simple lessons for positive change.

There will be two educational tracks to this conference. The first will focus on lead-



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ership and business operations with forums to address financial and succession planning, employee recruitment and retention, as well as open discussion panels to address the on-

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going needs and concerns of companies within the crosstie supply chain. The second track will focus on research surrounding the life cycle of the wooden

crosstie. This will include presentations related to ongoing studies for tie life span, sustainability, and addressing challenges and regulatory issues.

Depending on COVID protocols, additional field trip opportunities may be available as a part of this meeting. Registration will open March 1. Look for additional information to come.

Aug. 9-12, 2021 – RTA Tie Grading Seminar, The Florence Center, Florence, S.C.

The RTA Tie Grading Seminar returns in 2021 with a three-day intensive course on tie grading basics such as defects, species and specifications. An optional fourth day on August 12 will take a deeper dive for those who are interested.

This event has been relocated from the host hotel to the Florence Center to allow for more instructional space in an air-conditioned environment.

Registration will open March 1, and space will be limited.

November 2-5, 2021–103rd RTA Annual Conference, St. Louis Union Station, St. Louis, Mo.

RTA returns to its roots in 2021 as we head to St. Louis, Mo., where RTA was founded in 1919. We will reflect on our 103 years of “Supporting North American Transportation” as well as look ahead to future initiatives for our industry.

The Economic Keynote Luncheon on November 3 will be presented by Alex Chausovsky of ITR Economics, who is returning after many positive reviews of his presentation at the 2020 Virtual Conference.

We will once again enjoy the traditions attendees have come to love at our prior conferences such as golf and spouse events while starting some new activities. Registration will open July 15.

For information on how you can participate as a sponsor for any of these events, exhibit space or for information on annual sponsorship packages, please contact Regina Robuck, director of partnership sales, at rrobuck@rta.org.

To submit a proposal for an education session presentation or share your ideas about speakers or content, please contact Ashley Goodin, executive director, at agoodin@rta.org.



The Annual RTA Conference, scheduled for Nov. 2-5, 2021, will bring together professionals representing all facets of the wood tie industry.



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