

RTA First Annual Photo Contest Begins

Members' Photos Tell The 'From Tree-To-Track' Story

The Railway Tie Association (RTA) published its award-winning poster "From Tree-to-Track" in 2005. Since then, it has been widely distributed throughout the wood preserving and railroad industries and with legislators in Washington, D.C.

This year, the RTA Executive Committee decided to bring a new focus on the wood crosstie story by running a member photo contest. Members were and will continue to be asked to submit

pictures that graphically describe the progress of a wood crosstie from beginning to end.

Our association members responded to the first phase of the "From Tree-to-Track" story, "from seedling through the logging operation," with some beautiful photos.

The first place winner was a gorgeous close-up of the beginning of a new tree's life. Taken by Paul Lupo, a forester with

Walker Lumber in Woodland, Pa., using a Canon 8mp SLR Digital camera, the photo depicts a white oak acorn in Pennsylvania Furnace, Pa.

The second place photo shows a maturing cherry bark red oak as it provides a canopy for the forest floor near the Saline River in Bradley County, Ark. It was taken by Lance Ramsay, manager of Mechanicsburg Lumber Co. LLC of Yazoo City, Miss., using a Canon EOS Digital Rebel XS camera.

Other published photos show how logging operations work and even how prescribed burning is used to set the stage for the next generation of growing crossties.

Our first and second place winners will receive a \$125 and \$75 e-gift card, respectively, from Amazon.com.

Honorable mentions also deserve recognition. The top vote getter in the honorable mention category was a photo taken by Doug Greenwood, owner and general manager of DIA Enterprises in New Bloomington, Ohio. The photo was taken in Delaware, Ohio, using a Sony 714 digital camera. RTA is pleased to announce that, due to the gracious sponsorship of so many RTA Executive Committee members, we are awarding a \$25 e-gift card to Doug. Other photos receiving honorable mention votes were submitted by Anthony Brewer of Thompson Industries' Collinwood, Tenn., plant and Mike Poor of Thompson Industries' Russellville, Ark., plant.

For our next issue of *Crossties*, the photo contest will focus on the second phase of the "From Tree to Track" story—the sawmill operation. Log on to www.rta.org for full details and let the next round of picture taking begin! Deadline to submit photos to RTA at ties@rta.org is May 16.

We are happy to share that Executive Committee Member Skipper Beal of



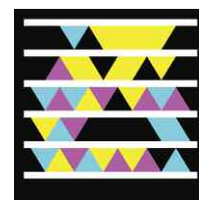
Paul Lupo, Walker Lumber



Lance Ramsay, Mechanicsburg Lumber



Doug Greenwood, DIA Enterprises



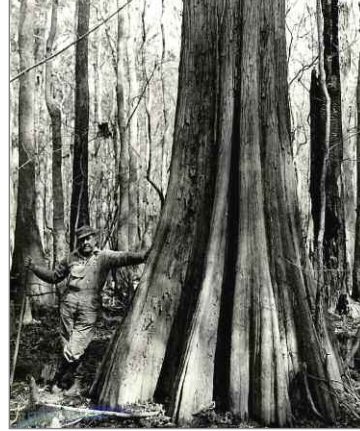
The second phase of the "From Tree-To-Track" photo contest is the sawmill operation. Log on to www.rta.org for full details. Scan the tag

at left to go directly to the page from some mobile devices once you've downloaded the FREE Microsoft Tag Reader app.

RTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUBMISSIONS



Submitted by Jeff Broadfoot, Thompson Industries



Submitted by Skipper Beal, Beal Lumber Co.



Beal Lumber Company sponsored this issue's first- and second-place prizes. Thanks, Skipper!

Executive Committee Members Participate

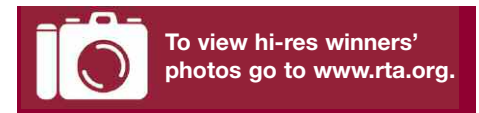
Although ineligible to participate in the contest, RTA Executive Committee members submitted several historical photos just for fun and to help tell the "From Tree-to-Track" story. "Winners"

in this category were Jeff Broadfoot of Thompson Industries and Skipper Beal of Beal Lumber Co. Their photos are also included in this feature.

Thanks To All The Sponsors

A special thanks goes out to all the companies that contributed significantly to the prize vault for the full-year photo contest project. They will be recognized individually throughout the year as their

specific sponsor prize is awarded. But, we could not let this first issue go by without saying "thank you" to all of them: Beal Lumber Company, Koppers Inc., MiTek Industries, Stella-Jones Corp., Thompson Industries, and Wheeler Lumber. *More Photos* >




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Locomotive photo courtesy of R.A. Page, Canadian Pacific

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This photo submitted by Eddie Holley, Kerr-McGee Chemical, retired, shows his grandfather sitting on a horse in front of an old steam engine sawmill. Most of the logs are hickory, which was the dominant wood in the industry then. The photo was taken sometime in the early 1900s near the Tennessee River in Humphreys County, Tenn. At the time, the only means of shipping lumber and ties was via barge.



OTHER HONORABLE MENTIONS



Anthony Brewer, Thompson Industries



Doug Greenwood, DIA Enterprises



Mike Poor, Thompson Industries



Mike Poor, Thompson Industries

WHERE AM I?

Play Detective & Win!

RTA Executive Director Jim Gauntt took this photo while on reconnaissance in...ah, not so fast! To play, you must identify where these photos were taken.

The winner of this contest will be the first to submit the name of the building and location for this picture. That lucky person will receive an item from the RTA store as our thanks for playing along.

Remember, you need to act fast. So, if you know where this picture was taken, send us an e-mail to ties@rta.org. The second photo is a "clue." ■

